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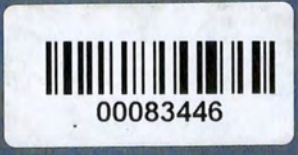

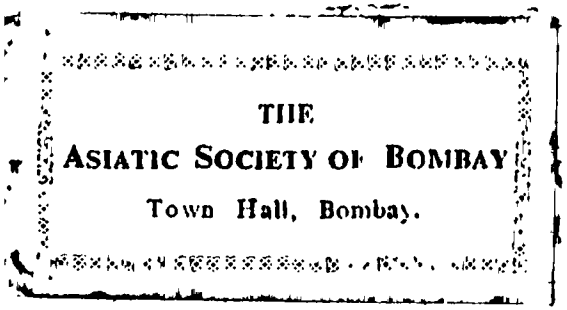

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A VISIT TO THE INDIANS OF CHILI.

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A VISIT TO THE INDIANS

ON THE

FRONTIERS OF CHILI.

BY

CAPTAIN ALLEN F. GARDINER, R. N.

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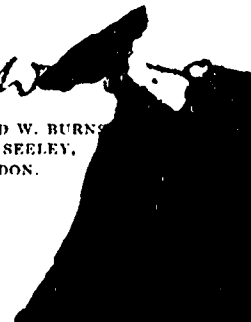

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A VISIT TO THE INDIANS OF CHILI.

CHAPTER I.

RELINQUISHMENT OF THE ZULU MISSION—DETERMINATION TO PROCEED TO SOUTH AMERICA—ARRIVAL AT RIO JANEIRO—STATE OF BRAZIL—LEAVE FOR MONTE VIDEO—AND BUENOS AYRES.

It will not be necessary to give any lengthened detail of the circumstances which induced me to abandon the settlement of Hambanarti, near Port Natal; the brief but eventful history of the Zulu Mission being sufficiently known. In order, however, to introduce the following narrative, and to explain the particular object for which the various journeys it describes were undertaken, a few words may not be out of place.

When we left Port Natal, on the 25th of March 1838, for Port Elizabeth, it was solely with the view of making arrangements for transporting, according to previous agreement, the natives residing at Hambanarti to some spot on the colonial frontier where the same plans for their spiritual instruction might be carried on, without the apprehension of further interruption. Although no time was lost on our arrival in commencing the necessary preparations, it soon appeared that the pecuniary difficulties which beset this project were of such a nature as to convince me that it was totally impracticable, at least with my unassisted means;—from necessity, therefore, it was with much reluctance given up. Had it been otherwise, all my efforts would have been fruitless, as on our arrival at Roudebosck near Cape Town on the 5th of May, accounts were received from the Rev. F. Owen of a very distressing nature, clearly shewing that all the difficulties and disappointments which I had met with in the attempt to effect the desired location had been altogether providential.

By the letter referred to it appeared that the temptation to join in the war against Dingarn, and thereby to share in the expected booty of cattle, had been too strong for the people of Hambanarti. It was with the utmost difficulty that I had succeeded in restraining them while

present; and when I did leave them it was under the well-understood stipulation that by embarking in such an unwarrantable expedition they would forfeit all further claim to my protection, and could not possibly be received into the proposed settlement, where they had all individually expressed their desire to accompany me. In direct defiance of this solemn pledge, so publicly and so recently given, all, with the exception of three or four, made a hostile inroad into the Zulu territory, and drove off several head of cattle. Their ill-gotten booty, however, was not long retained, for on their way back they were surprised at night by a strong party of Zulus, who not only recovered all the cattle, but put many of them to the spear.

Although as yet ignorant of the painful tidings which soon afterwards announced the total discomfiture and loss of hundreds of these poor deluded natives, who were led on by the white settlers from Port Natal, and among whom all excepting twelve, of the Hambanarti people who joined them on their way, met with a fearful end; I felt that our opportunity for usefulness among the Zulus, on the plan which I considered as the most desirable for a layman, had now entirely passed away. That the projects of the emigrant Dutch farmers, who were about to overrun the whole country, and their unceremonious treatment of the

natives, would ere long have led to a similar result, there was so little reason to doubt, that on this very account I had deemed it absolutely necessary to make some arrangements for removing my people altogether from the neighbourhood of Port Natal; but from the moment that they implicated themselves in the war, it was evident that, even though peace had been the immediate consequence, and not one of them had fallen in the contest, as a man of honour, and above all, as a Christian, I could never again have received one of them (since they voluntarily regarded me as their chief) without subjecting myself to the very natural suspicion of having sanctioned, or what is little less criminal, connived at their wanton aggression; nor could I have reasonably hoped, under similar circumstances, to have restrained them on any future occasion from perpetrating other acts of lawless violence.

Little indeed did we imagine, on embarking for Port Elizabeth, that we were so soon to take our final leave of a country, in the welfare of which we felt so deep an interest; but seeing no prospect of realizing a settlement where the natives could be secure, beyond the boundaries of the colony, and not possessing the means to effect any other more suitable within; and at the same time feeling assured that every opening that might

hereafter occur, (either at Port Natal or in the country of the Zulus) for missionary exertion, would be promptly embraced by the missionaries of the Church Missionary Society, as also by their brethren from the American Board, we considered it to be our duty at once to remove from South Africa, and to seek out altogether a new sphere of employment among the heathen in some other quarter of the world. After much consideration, and having committed our way unto the Lord, we purposed, if it were His will, to proceed to South America, with the hope of commencing a work of religious instruction among the aborigines of that country, similar to that which had been so unexpectedly terminated in Africa.

This plan was not altogether new to my mind, having been entertained some years ago in consequence of a visit to the coasts of Chili and Peru, in 1821, while serving as Lieutenant in His Majesty's ship Dauntless; when it appeared to be highly desirable that some attempt should be made for the benefit of the independent Indian population which still exists on the borders of Chili and the Buenos Ayrean provinces. We should gladly have made our way direct for Buenos Ayres, but as no trade exists between that port and the Cape, we were obliged to proceed by a more circuitous route. On the evening of the 15th of May, we

embarked on board the ketch Velocity for Rio de Janeiro, and on the following day were slowly receding with a light breeze from the high land about Table Bay. Our feelings on this occasion it were not easy to describe—disappointed but not cast down—thankful for having been permitted to engage in any work which might contribute towards the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth, and conscious of our own unworthiness; willing to be used or laid aside at His own good pleasure; well knowing that although He ordinarily condescends to employ human instrumentality, He needs it not, and at any time can send forth fresh labourers into his vineyard. Into his gracious hands we desired to commit ourselves and all our concerns, thanking him for his past mercies, and imploring his counsel and guidance in all that we were about to undertake in his name.

After a pleasant passage, having remained four days at St. Helena, and passed within a few miles of the north end of the bold and rugged island of Trinidad, we anchored in Rio Janeiro harbour on the 21st of June.

Many changes have taken place since my last visit to this place in 1814. The streets, though still sufficiently dirty, are somewhat cleaner; the slaves are more decently clothed, the clanking of their chains is no longer heard in the Palace Square,

and the shops, especially in the Rica do Ouvidor, where the French are almost the exclusive occupants, are far more numerous and better supplied than formerly. Gangs of slaves, encountered at every turn, and hurrying along the streets to the sound of their own voices, or the less melodious rattle which they carry for the purpose, still constitute one of the most remarkable characteristics of this bustling city, more especially as it is seen in striking contrast with the indolent habits of the Brazilians. They are altogether a fine body of negroes, and not only perform all the drudgery of water-carrying, but almost every burden is laid upon them, which in Europe would be consigned to the cart or the dray. The ordinary price of a good slave is from £50. to £60., and although the slave-market, with all its external horrors, was swept away by the edict of abolition in 1830, it is a melancholy fact, but too well authenticated, that an illicit traffic, tacitly encouraged by the supineness of the Brazilian government, is still carried on at many parts of the coast; and slaves, it is said, are not unfrequently landed by night, within a very few miles of the capital itself. In the museum, which is chiefly remarkable for the specimens of ores and precious stones, are now to be seen some splendid feather-head ornaments, girdles, and other curious decorations, captured from the In-

dians inhabiting the province of Para, during the disturbances which took place in that part of Brazil about three years ago. The merit of inventing a wooden field-piece, has, as far as my experience goes, been reserved for the actors in this rebellion. This unique piece of ordnance, which stands in the centre of one of the rooms, is bored out of a solid piece of hard wood, strengthened throughout its length, (4 feet 8 inches) by twelve iron hoops, and is said to have done much execution before it was captured. It is mounted upon a carriage, and adapted for a ball of about four pounds. The impossibility of procuring metal guns, had induced the Brazilian insurgents to adopt such an expedient for the defence of their mountain fastness.

For want of proper roads, a few miles in two or three directions around the city, exhausts the limits within which spring carriages can proceed with safety. That to the Botanical Garden, about seven miles distant, is the most beautiful, passing through Bota Fogo, and along the borders of the Lagoa de Freitas; the former a sequestered cove, margined by a village of the same name, the favourite residence of the European families; the other a salt-water lake, and both environed by mountains clothed with luxuriant vegetation, among which the peaks of Corcovado and the Sugar-Loaf rear their granite masses in sterile sub-

SCENE NEAR AN INDIAN VILLAGE.

limity. There are few flowers in this garden, the climate being unsuitable, but the fruit and forest trees, many of which are from the East Indies, are seen to great advantage. The jack and the bread-fruit were bearing; the mango was brown with blossom; we observed several clove and cinnamon trees, and a large plantation of the tea plant in flower, which much resembles that of the wood-strawberry.

We were struck with the great similarity of the sword-flower tree, which is here indigenous, to the Umseensi (Kafer boom) so frequently met with in the Zulu country, and indeed throughout Kafraria. The leaf is here larger, and the flower longer, but the general character and appearance are precisely the same; the splendid crimson blossoms continuing in great profusion until long after every leaf has left the branches.

The little information which I have been enabled to obtain respecting the moral state of Brazil, though painful in many respects, is still very encouraging. The thick darkness is gradually dispersing, and although much of bigotry yet remains, it is confined to a portion of the clergy, who are not as heretofore countenanced by the civil power in any arbitrary attempt to shut out the glimmering of light which has already begun to dawn. Amongst the higher and middling

classes, education is popular, many schools are in operation, and an university entitled the Imperial College, has very recently been established, in which, as in other seminaries of less note, the Bible in the Portuguese language has lately been introduced. During the last two years, the Rev. Justin Spaulding, (a Wesleyan Missionary from the United States,) has been most usefully employed in distributing Bibles, Testaments, and Religious Tracts, which have been received with great avidity, notwithstanding many sinister attempts by the priests to impede their circulation. That a blessing will eventually attend these efforts there can be no doubt. Whether he or his coadjutor will, when sufficiently conversant with the language, be permitted to preach publicly, is yet to be ascertained; but whatever are the hindrances they may experience, the word of God cannot be hid, the good seed will have been sown, and though now cast as it were upon the waters with no visible effects, the promise will not fail; after many days it will be found to have accomplished that for which it was sent, and prove to be the power of God unto salvation.

During a very brief intercourse with the members of this infant mission, we were much gratified by observing a happy admixture of judgment and zeal, and most cordially do we wish them God

speed in their interesting labours. There could not indeed have been a more suitable period for such an attempt. The present liberal institutions of the country, its extensive trade, and the consequent influx of foreigners, particularly French, have each contributed to raise the veil of superstition, to stamp absurdity upon the common routine of priestcraft, and as a natural consequence, to foster every shade of scepticism, until, by gradual steps, many a bigotted papist has been imperceptibly conducted into the thickest mazes of infidelity.

Those who enter the field of Christian instruction, will find a great advantage in the number of all classes, excepting the slaves, who are able to read, and it is to be sincerely hoped, that a circumstance of such vast importance will not be overlooked by the supporters of the Religious Book Societies in England and the United States; for unless some adequate means are promptly employed, the public mind, newly awakened to a sense of its necessities, and craving for novelties, will sustain an indelible blight from the infidel works of Voltaire, Paine, &c. which are now unhappily circulated by unprincipled book-venders, and daily augmenting the mass of Deism, already in the ascendant.

The duty on books is high, 20 per cent. on the

ad valorem prices; and instances are not unfrequent of their being seized at the custom-house, should these prices be considered too low. Of this fact I became acquainted, while enquiring of a bookseller for a Spanish work; the edition was in four volumes, but three only were produced; on objecting that it was defective, he assured me that on the arrival of an expected vessel, it would be complete. The reason he assigned was simply this; having already lost many books through the cupidity of the custom-house officers, disputing the ad valorem prices, he had requested his correspondent in future to retain one volume of each set, and forward it by a later vessel, thus rendering each consignment apparently defective, and consequently unsaleable at the custom-house.

The influence of the press, though feeble, is beginning to be felt, and even the priesthood are not always exempt from its vituperations. So lightly is the Papal authority regarded, that the present bishop of Rio de Janeiro holds his appointment from the Brazilian government, notwithstanding the right of nomination is claimed by the See of Rome. The dispute which has originated on this point, is not yet terminated, and may lead to important results.

From the best information that I could obtain, it would appear that the entire free and slave

population of Brazil are in the following proportions, viz. in round numbers.

3,140,000 free of all classes.
2,000,000 Slaves.

Total 5,140,000, including Indians who are *called* free.

Regarded, however, as an approximation to the truth, (for no exact census exists) it is a fearful account, when it is remembered that these two millions are not only slaves, but wholly destitute of every means of instruction. By the outward form of Baptism their right to Christian burial is indeed established, but they are deserted on the very threshold of the Church which has adopted them,—the rite of marriage being almost unknown among them; so that it may truly be said, that no man careth for their souls.

As respects their general treatment, it will be sufficient to state the well-known fact that they do not increase; so that, on many large estates, but few children are to be found, owing to the onerous servitude exacted from the females. This diminution, according to a recent work by Calmon, published at Bahia, is in the ratio of 5 per cent per annum.

A weekly school for the children of these poor outcasts, a Sunday school for the adults, and if

possible a church especially appropriated for the slave population, are loudly called for; the former might be established without any fear of opposition from the government.

Few, probably, of the adults would be permitted by their Brazilian owners to attend, but there is every reason to believe that several hundred slave children might be collected in Rio de Janeiro for a day-school, which if first established, would be the best preparation for the other two. By some mutual arrangement with the gentlemen conducting the English and American merchantile establishments, who own many slaves as the property of their respective firms, it is probable that they would not be prohibited from attending, at convenient hours, both the adult school and the church. Their influence would be most valuable, and the Christian example they would thus uphold in accordance with their own principles, would not lose its weight among those who as yet have never possessed the advantages of Protestant institutions. With the Portuguese language the slaves in general are sufficiently conversant to receive instruction through that medium.

The deficiency of an English church has within these few years been supplied, and a very neat and creditable building it is; but it is to be regretted, that one service only is performed by the

chaplain, who, as far as I could understand, has no other clerical duty.

In concluding this subject, of more vital importance than the richest mines of the interior, I will transcribe a passage which occurs in the Constitutional Charter of this empire, and which, as emanating from a Popish government, deserves a degree of commendation.

'All other religions, (besides the Catholic) are permitted in domestic worship, or in particular edifices destined for the purpose, without however having any appearance of a temple.'

A passage having already been engaged to Monte Video by a Brazilian brig called the Rapido, after a delay of ten days beyond the time first appointed for sailing, we embarked on the 11th of July, and early on the following morning weighed, and with a light breeze passed in succession the many picturesque coves and islets which contribute to the characteristic beauty of this splendid harbour.

On the 18th, when within two days sail of our port, after an interval of calm accompanied with heavy rain and thunder and lightning, we experienced two of these strong westerly gales here called 'pamperos,' on account of their sweeping directly over those immense plains which in this part extend almost across the continent to the very foot of the Cordilleras. The first was of short

duration, but that which succeeded on the following night, after a much more vivid and awful thunderstorm, continued until the evening of the 21st.

Notwithstanding the ample warnings that were given, and the general expectation of the coming gale, it was not until the second had actually reached its height, and we had long been reduced to a close-reefed main top-sail, that the royal and top-gallant yards were sent down! The only reply which I could obtain from the Captain, who spake a little English, to my suggestions on this point was, 'never mind—never mind—by and bye good weather come.' I need not say that it was a providential circumstance that we did not roll away our topmasts, especially as the skysail poles were kept aloft throughout. At daylight on the 24th we saw the land about Maldonado, and at 10 that night, anchored off Montevideo. On the afternoon of the following day we entered the harbour and went to the American hotel in the Calle de Moulle.

As has been too frequently the case since the provinces of this continent asserted their independence of Spain and Portugal, the flame of civil war has again burst out in this infant state, and reduced the city of Montevideo almost to a state of siege. Ravera, who some few years ago administered the supreme government as president,

has now, as it is asserted, from motives of personal animosity, arrayed himself against Orivas, who at present holds that office, which is elective. About a month since an engagement took place, in which Orivas was defeated, and obliged with a few adherents to retire within the defences of this capital; where he is shut up by Ravera, who is said to possess great influence in the country, and what is still more important, to have the hearts of the soldiery. Already negotiations have been set on foot, which it is generally supposed will result in the abdication of Orivas, and the ascendancy of the opposite party. Ravera's piquets are within a league of the city, and his head-quarters at Durazno, about 40 leagues distant; but if they are not a more respectable force than that to which the defence of the capital is intrusted, they must indeed present a most grotesque appearance. All are cavalry, and consequently do duty, even in garrison, with carbines, but not a third of them are in any sort of uniform, if a white hat-band is excepted, on which is presented in large letters, 'Defensor de las leyes.' Some were attired in ponchos, others in cloaks or blankets; hats and scotch caps of blue or red cloth were indiscriminately worn. Some had swords, others bayonets, or even large knives strapped to their sides, but however mean or bandit-like in their military

equipment, few were destitute of that summum bonum of their animal existence, a cigar. This however was characteristic, and in far better keeping with the *toute ensemble* than the seaman, (I should rather say the *sailor*,) belonging to the Rapido; who I observed deliberately going aloft to reef the fore-topsail in half a gale of wind, with one of those glowing comforters protruding from his lips. Notwithstanding the excitement consequent upon the unsettled state of affairs, it was gratifying to understand that no depredations were committed in the city, and that instances of massacre, so frequent in Rio de Janeiro, even in more tranquil times, are here almost unknown. To an entire stranger the appearance of the harbour, crowded almost to excess with foreign vessels, would indicate a period of the greatest prosperity; but this was merely accidental, the effect of the recent blockade of Buenos Ayres by the French squadron, which indeed has been the cause of our entering this port, instead of proceeding there direct.

As the communication by packet (for passengers only) was still open, we embarked in one of these, an American-built schooner, called the Rosa, on the evening of the 26th, and on the following evening anchored near one of the French brigs of war in the outer roads of Buenos Ayres, about five

miles from the shore. But for the existing restrictions occasioned by the blockade we might have anchored much nearer; it was consequently dark before we landed; a two-horse-cart driven into the water, conveyed us from the whale-boat to the beach. After some little trouble we found very comfortable lodgings at Mr. Palmer's boarding house, in the Calle de la Viente y cinco de Mayo, and were thankful not to have been detained later on board, as a thunder-storm with heavy rain commenced soon after we had landed, and for three days prevented all communication with the vessels in the roads.

During the gale, the Rosa parted successively from three anchors, and was eventually obliged to run for shelter to Montevideo, where the captain very dexterously ran her upon the soft mud, where she received no injury. Until her return on the 4th of August considerable doubts were entertained as to her safety, no accounts having reached us of her destination; and as we had landed with only a few articles for the night, we were for some days in much perplexity respecting our baggage; which at length we had almost given up the hope of recovering.

CHAPTER II.

BUENOS AYRES——DESPOTISM——DEPARTURE——TRAVELLING THROUGH THE PAMPAS—MENDOZA—DISTRIBUTION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

THE immediate occasion of the present difference between the Buenos Ayrean and the French governments has been the arbitrary imprisonment of a French subject, and the impressment of others to serve in the army. By the provincial law it appears that, after a residence of three years, all foreigners, British and American excepted, who are protected by treaty, are regarded as citizens, and it is under this plea that these arbitrary acts are defended by the authorities here. It is not necessary to enter into this dispute, or to state more than that it is the current opinion of the European residents that the governor, General Rosas, would gladly rid himself altogether of the treaties formerly entered into with Great Britain and the United States, since he has refused to treat with the French government on similar terms, and has

evinced a total disregard to the interests and protection of foreigners. His rule is one of sheer despotism, and perhaps there does not exist a more arbitrary executive in any part of the civilized world. Two instances alone will be sufficient to shew the melancholy state of things in this capital. About twelve months ago eighty Indians fell into the hands of the troops stationed on the southern frontier of this province. They were brought by sea to Buenos Ayres, and almost immediately on their landing, were taken to the square of one of the principal barracks, and there, without even the form of a trial, drawn out by tens at a time, and shot upon the spot, by a party of soldiers appointed for the purpose.

The second is that of Montero, a major in the army, who, from the great influence which he had obtained among the subjugated Indians located within the province, had excited the jealousy and suspicion of Rosas, and was in consequence summoned to the capital. Immediately on his arrival he repaired unsuspectingly to the governor, who received him with great cordiality, complimented him on his success, and signified his intention to promote him for his services to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the regiment commanded by his own brother Prudentia Rosas. At the close of this interview he was furnished with a note, written by

the governor, with the express understanding that on its delivery he would be invested in his new rank. With a light heart Montero took his leave of the governor, thanking him for his kindness; but no sooner had the fatal note been presented to Prudentia at his quarters in the Retiro, than preparations were made to enforce the inhuman mandate. When the real import was disclosed, and Montero was informed that if he needed a confessor, but a short respite would be allowed, he regarded the whole as a tax upon his credulity, and for some time could not be persuaded that he was to be the victim of so base a deception.

Perceiving at length that his fate was determined, he drew his sword, resolving to defend himself to the last. The struggle was but momentary, overpowered by the soldiers who immediately surrounded him, he was shot upon the spot. This atrocious occurrence took place about two years and a half ago, and is only notorious among many of a similar character, inasmuch as the victim was a person well known and of some consequence in the country.

During the short space of three years and a half that General Rosas has been at the head of the government, I have been credibly informed that the numbers of individuals who have been shot by his order are fearfully great. Many of them were

quite lads, and all, with a very few exceptions, without even the pretence of a mock trial. The greater portion were deserters from the army, which for some months has been wholly unpaid, and becoming in consequence very unpopular, is recruited by compulsory levies.

The very cry of the night-watchmen is ominous, and indicative of a state of things by no means likely to continue on its present footing. The literal translation of the words put into the mouths of these disturbers of peaceful slumber (for they are the most vociferous policemen I ever heard) is this—"Long live the federation! Life to the Governor, the restorer of the laws! Death to the Unitarians!" (a term applied to the antifederalists.)

The number of foreigners residing at Buenos Ayres is considerable; amounting, it is said, to between eight and nine thousand, of which the greater part are English and French, the remainder being chiefly Italians and Germans. To the credit of our countrymen, there are two Protestant places of worship, the one Episcopal, the other of the Scotch Kirk; the interior of the former is handsome and commodious, and the congregation have for some years been privileged by the ministry of the Rev. J. Armstrong, (chaplain to the British minister.) This church owes its erection

almost entirely to the personal exertions of the present incumbent. Although our acquaintance with this gentleman and his family commenced at this place, we experienced from them much Christian kindness during our short stay, and prior to our leaving for Mendoza, spent a few days at their house in the outskirts of the city.

Notwithstanding the revival of the order of Jesuits, and the countenance they receive from the present government, it is an encouraging fact that neither the distribution nor the sale of Bibles or religious books is prohibited, though at the same time it is understood that public preaching in Spanish, or any other direct attempt to instruct the people in the truths of Christianity, as drawn ungarbled from the Scriptures, would meet with decided opposition. Mr. Dempster, a missionary from the United States, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of making, has been residing in this city about a year; but under the present arbitrary system appears to have little prospect of extending his ministerial labours beyond the members of his own church, either American or English. Far less hope is there of effecting any thing for the spiritual benefit of the Indians, who are designedly kept in ignorance within the province, and systematically shot and hunted down wherever they can be met with beyond. Under such circum-

stances no friendly intercourse with the independent tribes appears to be practicable, and thus a large portion of the human race is wantonly cut off from the means of religious instruction, the only key to civilization, and is goaded on to retributive acts of rapine and murder, by the very persons whose interest and duty should naturally dictate an opposite treatment. All the information which I could collect tended to confirm this melancholy fact; but while the result of every enquiry seemed more firmly to close every avenue for missionary exertions among the heathen in this direction, it was generally admitted that fewer obstacles would be met with on the opposite side of the Cordillera, and that it was probable that, from the Chilian frontier, free access might be obtained into the Indian territory.

With this prospect in view we purposed, by the blessing of God, to proceed forthwith into Chili, and every preparation having been completed, on Friday, August 10, we took our leave of our kind friends Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, with whom we had been spending a few days, and by half-past ten, were slowly wending our way in a galera through the broken and muddy streets which intersect the suburbs of Buenos Ayres. A galera is a heavy-looking vehicle, shorter, but in every other respect, very much resembling an omnibus;

swung upon strong twisted hide springs, and carrying luggage on the roof, as also below in a hide stretched and suspended between the hind wheels ; it is entered behind, and has windows all round. Each of the five horses which drew us was mounted by a peon, or postillion, but excepting the two wheelers, which had each a pole-piece, none of the horses had any other connexion with the carriage they were drawing, than a twisted hide-trace hooked to one side of the saddle girth. Although defective, some advantages are obtained by this method, as each horse, irrespective of the rest, is enabled to diverge on a sudden to either side, and thereby avoid any obstacle or inequality in the road ; they are also more easily attached, and at any time, one or more can be disengaged, while the remainder are proceeding at their usual pace. We were accompanied by a courier on a separate horse, whose principal duty it was to ride forward and expedite the relays, &c. an additional expence, which, considering the distance at which the horses are often kept from the post-houses (some of which are not even on the road) we had no reason to regret.

The soil in this province is a stiff clay without stones, and as much rain had fallen previous to our setting out ; the roads, if they deserve the name, for some distance beyond the city, were

almost impassable for spring carriages. Far from going off at a gallop, our progress at the commencement was exceedingly slow, the ruts often engulphing the wheels to the naves, and rendering it very doubtful whether we should not be deposited by the way in some of the numerous quagmires through which we were dragged. On these occasions the greater caution was observed by the peons, who in no instance throughout the journey ran any thing like a risk when danger was apprehended. The roads improved as we advanced, but on approaching Luxan, where it began to rain heavily, they again became almost impassable. At this village we made our Sunday halt, having been prevented by the rain from proceeding further on Saturday. In the afternoon of Sunday, I received a very extraordinary visit from the parochial clergyman, the purport of which was neither more nor less than to offer, at a premium, to exchange my paper money for silver! I felt much for the individual, and more for his flock; nor should this circumstance have been alluded to, but with the hope that prayer may be offered for this benighted land, that it may please the Lord to give them pastors and teachers after his own heart.

To picture the general features of the Pampas, upon which we had now entered, and were to traverse for full nine hundred miles, little imagina-

tion is necessary. To the eye of the traveller, passing hastily along, they appear almost level and unbroken, but they are indented by occasional rises, something like the long undulating swell of the ocean, but never assuming the character of hills. For nearly half the way, scarcely a tree or a shrub is seen to break the monotony, and the pee-wit and the biscacho, seemed to be almost the undisputed tenants of the wilderness, which, notwithstanding some patches where thistles predominate, is generally covered with grass growing in tufts, until succeeded by a sandy district, yielding little or no pasturage, and chiefly covered with stunted mimosa. A marked change takes place on entering the province of Santa Fé. The soil which had previously been damp and clayey now became dry, and as we proceeded, was more and more intermixed with sand, but still without stones or pebbles of any description.

That portion of the route which passes through the province of Cordova was somewhat enlivened by a few patches of stunted mimosa, but with this exception, and a romantic defile through a low range of rocky mountains in the immediate neighbourhood of San Luis, there was little to break the dull uniformity of the scene, until we entered the province of Mendoza, many parts of which are well irrigated and exceedingly fertile.

Nothing could be more wretched than the generality of the post-houses on the road; some indeed were substantially built, but the greater part were miserable hovels without windows, and in one or two instances without doors. The roofs, until reaching San Luis, were usually plaistered with a mixture of mud and straw, which, when properly prepared, is said to be sufficiently water-proof. The floors are of mud with a raised platform of the same material on one side to serve the purpose of a bedstead. One or two stump bedsteads, with hides laced to the frame instead of sacking, were occasionally to be met with, and these, with a rude table, two or three straight-backed crazy chairs, and a bowl of water, were the sum total of the furniture. Even this, to us, who had so lately been accustomed to South African travelling, would have been comfort, had we not been obliged to pay too dearly for the indulgence. We had been previously warned of the numerous inhabitants of these solitary abodes, and had resolved to have as little communication with them as possible; but, although we commenced by sleeping in the galera, it was impossible to 'taboo' our garments during our occasional visits for breakfast, supper, &c. The consequence was that our favoured retreat, the galera itself, soon became so thickly colonized, that from sunset to sunrise it

was scarcely tenable, so that for the advantage of space, which was now more than ever desirable, we gave the preference to the post-house, and occupied it for the night, endeavouring to sleep; which was, after a vain attempt, for some hours effected. In long stages we found the advantage of sleeping in the galera, as the peones, always desirous to start soon after day-light, were thus enabled to put to at their own time, so that we were often some distance on our way at a round gallop, before the children were up, and at the next post-house the operations of the toilet, &c. were performed while the breakfast was preparing. In the same hasty manner (for on many accounts no time should be lost in crossing the Pampas) was our dinner dispatched, seated in the galera, while the horses were changing; a fowl stewed overnight having been taken on the roof in the saucepan—so that in fact we were travelling without intermission for nine or ten hours on an average every day. Deducting the Sundays, and two half days, on which we did not travel, we were but fourteen days from Buenos Ayres to Mendoza, a distance of 948 miles; averaging about seven miles an hour, including stoppages. We frequently went at the rate of nine, or nine and a half miles an hour, and were seldom detained long for relays at the post-houses, but for this expedition we were in some

measure indebted to our courier, who, when on the road, was always in advance, so that the horses were generally in the corral by the time we arrived. When the post-houses are many miles apart, which was frequently the case, two or three relays, according to the distance, are taken on, and the horses changed at regular intervals. These horses are driven forwards sometimes loose, sometimes tied together neck to neck abreast, by a peon who accompanies them on horseback.

There is scarcely any part of the road that is not liable to occasional attacks from the wandering Indians, but on reaching those districts which are considered as the most exposed, we observed that many of the post-houses were entrenched within a deep ditch, and further defended by an interior hedge of cactus. These vegetable ramparts, which grow to a great height, and being ever-green, cannot be fired, are admirably adapted for the purpose, and are said to be impervious to any attack from the Indians, who never dismount on these occasions, and whose only weapons are a long lance and a couple of stone or metal balls, sewn into the ends of a short lasso, which they swing round and round as they advance, and wield with great dexterity.

The post-house of Baton, which is surrounded by a double cactus hedge of great height, with a

ditch between, is the best specimen of this description of stockade on the road; but I was greatly surprised to observe the entire want of a similar precaution, in parts of the country which from time to time have been wasted and pillaged by the Indians, and where many individuals have been murdered by them. Between the Villa del Rio Quarto, and Las Achinas, are several traces of these devastations. The post-house of La Gunella and Ojo del Agua, were sacked two years ago, and are still ruined and abandoned. The small hamlet of Barranquita with its chapel, near which we changed horses, is also in ruins, forming a striking contrast with the luxuriant peach-trees, which at the time we passed were blossoming with great beauty among the mouldering walls. The bones of some of the victims of this murderous affray, which occurred about eleven years ago, are still to be seen strewed upon the altar of the chapel, which is now the occasional resort of muleteers on their journeys. The hamlet of Corracort beyond the Rio Desaguadero has likewise been pillaged, and its chapel, which has never since been repaired, is also occasionally used as a stable. The lower section of a mutilated image above the high altar is alone standing, with a confessional-box entire; the interior was chiefly occupied by rubbish and pack-saddles. The attack

on this place took place about eight years ago, and well would it be for the sake of humanity, if these should prove the last, though bitter fruits, of that weak and unchristian policy, which too long has been pursued by the Spanish Americans, in their intercourse with the aborigines. Most deeply is it to be regretted, that no means have been taken to conciliate their friendship. Treated even worse than open enemies, quarter is neither given nor expected on either side, excepting that it is the practice of the Indians to preserve and carry off to their dwellings the younger women and female children, who may unfortunately fall into their hands.

The first clear view of the Cordillera, was obtained when about half way between Repusa and Desaguadero; a fine broken outline, but too distant to present any remarkable features; an intermediate range of lower mountains which seemed to rise abruptly from the plain before us, concealed their lower slopes. Nearly all the way from the village of Retamo to Mendoza, (twelve leagues,) the country, still a perfect level, and now well watered with small rivulets, is portioned out into pasturage, with ranchos and country houses; a delightful contrast to the open and uncultivated districts, in many parts parched and arid, which we had so long been traversing. It

was indeed refreshing to the eye, and would have been equally gratifying to the imagination, had not a truly Belgic uniformity pervaded the whole, marshalling into lines and rectangles the luxuriant orchards and avenues of peach and almond-trees, and circumscribing every separate estate by long and formal lines of towering poplars. So much has been said and written of the beauty of Mendoza, that our expectations were raised, especially as, from its vicinity to the Cordillera, we imagined it to have been built upon broken ground. We were therefore not a little disappointed to find, that after threading some long straggling streets between mud walls connecting the distant houses, that the town itself presented an equally shabby appearance; consisting of rectangular streets of houses built with unburnt brick and mud roofs, with a very few exceptions having neither paint nor plaister within walls, and still more rarely, any glass in their windows. Having slept on the previous night at Rondeo del Medio, we reached Mendoza in good time on the following day, Tuesday, the 28th; and by the kindness of Colonel and Mr. Alvarez Condares, to whom I had sent forward a letter of introduction, (for which I am indebted to Mr. Black of Buenos Ayres) we were soon after comfortably lodged with a private family, named Moreno, in the Canada.

Throughout this long journey, no accident has happened,—one of the front wheels of the galera once indeed came off, but we were all mercifully preserved. No Indians were either seen or heard of on the route, though much interest was excited, and many inquiries were made respecting them on our arrival at Mendoza, so that we have indeed great cause for thankfulness to the gracious hand that has been upon us for good. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!"

With respect to the galera travelling, I would remark, that there were some periods throughout the journey, especially in the neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres, Luxan, and the rocky parts between Achinas and San Louis, when I should have given a decided preference to an African waggon, as far better adapted to the description of road, over which our spring vehicle was not merely rocked, but agitated to excess. As these rough and ragged places are however an exception to the general plain and stoneless country, the galera is perhaps as convenient a description of carriage as could be devised. A little more length would be desirable, for the better accommodation of the party at night, and too much attention cannot be paid to the fixing and lining of the window frames, which we found, greatly to our inconvenience, admitted the rain when it continued for any length of time,

so that on reaching Luxan, it became actually necessary to drill large holes in the floor in order to drain it off. The method of attaching the horses is expeditious and convenient, but I think imperfect. One trace is fixed by a loop and toggle to the saddle of each horse under the pillion. By this he draws, or rather by the saddle; but as the saddle only retains its proper position as long as the girth remains tight, and there is, in consequence of this method, an undue strain upon it, it is not surprising that it should often become slack, and require to be tightened. Indeed this was one principal, almost our only, detention by the way; every now and then it became necessary for one or other of the peones to dismount for the purpose of replacing the saddle, which had been drawn back, and tightening the girth. It appeared to me that the mere addition of a chest-band would have obviated all this, and moreover enabled the horses to have drawn more evenly, the draught at present being chiefly on one side. A drag, which is never carried, would have been useful on two or three occasions, especially when crossing the Arroyo de Arrecefes, and descending the steep bank of the river Desaguadero, but both men and horses are so accustomed to supply the deficiency, by casting their weight as a counterpoise at the end of a long lasso, that the descent, however

rapid, is performed with equal facility, and perhaps with less risk. In the latter instance, as the water was above the floor of the galera, it was lightened of such of its contents as were likely to be immersed, and these with ourselves were conveyed across on a rude raft, floated by six empty casks lashed beneath, called a balsa. We were much amused in observing the skill of the riders, as well as the adroitness of the horses employed in the transport of the galera, which while descending to the bank of the stream, was supported by the united efforts of the men and horses, some of the former dragging back upon the wheels, while the latter, with their feet firmly planted on the ground, and leaning over on the opposite side, like a vessel under press of sail, seemed almost instinctively to perform the office assigned to them. Once in the bed of the stream, the voice and the spur completed the rest, for the peones, who had never quitted their saddles, but to aid in lightening the vehicle, now urged their horses forward, half swimming, half scrambling, until by a violent effort on the part of both, the opposite acclivity was gained. When this river is unfordable, which is frequently the case, the galera itself is placed upon the balsa, and drawn across as before, by a rope extending from either side.

We had heard much at Buenos Ayres of the

poverty of the government of these provinces, and the long arrears of pay which are often due to the troops in their employment, and on our arrival at the post-house of Morro, where a small detachment is stationed, we had a ludicrous instance of this fact. No sooner had we alighted, than several of the soldiers, distinguished only by their red lined pouches and red cloth caps, presented themselves with the trumpeter at their head; who with a significant salam, and a flourish of his hand, at once commenced blowing his cracked bugle in our ears. The object of this unexpected salute was easily understood, and as it was moreover signified on enquiry, that they were quite disposed to receive any trifle that might be offered, being wholly without pay and poorly clothed, I sent a couple of rials to the trumpeter, who went away well pleased with his success.

Although there is not a great variety in the simple attire of the wild peasantry of the Pampas, two ponchos, (one for the shoulders, the other for the loins,) with a red woollen purse-like cap, constituting often their entire wardrobe, still there is such an endless variety in the colours, and in the method of arrangement, that there are few countries, not even excepting Asia itself, which can furnish finer groups, or more striking individual studies for an amateur in picturesque costume.

The wild and bandit-like character of these semi-barbarous descendants of the early Spanish settlers, cannot fail to arrest the attention of a traveller; indeed they constitute almost the only relief to the monotony, and it was with no ordinary interest that we gazed upon them, as they stood listlessly before the corral, or were seen galloping about the solitary halting-places of our route. We found them invariably civil, but far more dirty than the boors of South Africa, and not possessing one tenth part of their comforts. Milk was almost always to be procured, but they have no gardens, and in no instance, excepting at Luxan and San Luis, could we procure any other vegetable than onions. Their treatment of their horses is by no means so barbarous as has been represented. They certainly ride admirably; and to see one of these wild-looking gauchos at full speed in chase of an ostrich, which we once witnessed, one scarcely knows which to admire the most, the fleetness of the horse, or the adroitness of the rider, whirling his lasso, and throwing his balls far before him. Their spurs indeed are colossal, and they are not sparing in the use, or rather the abuse of them: but during the nine hundred miles that we have posted, in no instance have I seen the horses at the end of a stage half so crest-fallen and jaded, as is too frequently the

case in stage-coach travelling in many parts of England. Many of our horses were so untractable and ill broken in, that before it was deemed safe to attach them to the galera, it was found necessary to gallop them off at full speed in some other direction, in order to conquer a little of their spirit and waywardness. With this previous discipline, which was often a curious exhibition of skill and stubbornness, they soon became perfectly passive, and occasioned no further trouble; but such would not have been the case in many instances, had they been employed out of harness. A traveller riding through this country, cannot be too cautious as to the horses that may be offered him at the post-houses; a due attention to which might have saved Mr. Rugendas, a German artist of great talent, with whom we afterwards became acquainted at Santiago, from a severe fall which had nearly proved fatal.

Having been furnished by our kind friends Mr. Spaulding, at Rio Janeiro, and Mr. Armstrong at Buenos Ayres, with a small supply of Spanish Bibles and Testaments, we distributed several on the road, chiefly to the postmasters and their families, at the houses where we slept. In every instance they were thankfully received; and had it not been necessary to avoid stoppages, on account of the distance of the post-houses, and the

hazard in some parts of the road of encountering Indians, many more might have been distributed, as we should have come more in contact with the natives of these wild and uncultivated plains. It was a melancholy thing, to hear it asserted by many to whom copies of the Scriptures were given, that these were the first they had ever seen. These persons, generally speaking, are unable to read, but considering their peculiar circumstances and habits, in a district perhaps the most thinly populated, (not being actually a desert) in the world, it would have been surprising to have found it otherwise.

As the season was not yet arrived for crossing the Cordillera, and we were likely to be detained at this place for some weeks, we were glad to avail ourselves of the kind offer of General Felix Aldoa, to occupy his chacra, or country-house, about two miles from the town, where we not only escaped the dust and heat of Mendoza, but enjoyed as much of the country as is to be found in its immediate neighbourhood, where every property is either included within high mud walls or a rectangular line of poplars. General Aldoa, who commands the military forces of this province, resides at San Carlos, a fortified post on the southern frontier, where about one hundred and twenty men are usually quartered. At San Rafal,

an advanced fort more to the eastward, are eighty men: small garrisons indeed, but it must be remembered that the whole embodied force of the province does not exceed three hundred men.

As the spring advanced, the whole features of the landscape, always flat and formal, relieved only by the bald ridges of the neighbouring mountains, was entirely changed, the intermixture of orchards and fruit trees with the country houses, the rich water meadows covered with luxuriant clover, and irrigated by numerous ducts, led from the mountain streams, gave a new life and interest to the scene, of which we had before been unconscious; as water, which is the great desideratum, is here easily led out, this has become one of the richest provinces of South America, in fruit, grain, and pasturage, but from the abundance and cheapness of all the necessaries of life, a degree of contentment approaching to apathy, is observable in the inhabitants, none of whom are in absolute want, while few can be strictly said to be affluent. Cut off by the snows of the Cordillera in their communication with Chili during half the year, bounded on the south by a deserted tract occasionally scoured by wandering Indians, and on the east by the wide Pampas, they are almost insulated from the rest of the civilised world; and from the peculiarity of their position, are precluded from en-

gaging in some of those commercial speculations, in which the prosperity of nations is supposed to exist, but which while they add to their luxury do not intrinsically contribute to their happiness.

The population of the entire province is computed at about fifty thousand; for some years past it has been free from any attack from the Indians, but in 1829, they took advantage of the civil war then raging, to commit some depredations, and advanced with five hundred men, to within sixty miles of Mendoza.

In 1833, a combined force, drawn chiefly from Buenos Ayres, San Louis, and Mendoza, took the field for the purpose of driving them to a distance from their respective frontiers; in which they succeeded; the Indians never giving them open battle, but retiring before them; and from that period they are reported to have withdrawn wholly from the disputed tracts, and to have concentrated themselves more to the southward.

General Juan Manuel Rosas, the present Governor of Buenos Ayres, who commanded the forces from that province employed on this occasion, is said to have acted towards the unfortunate Indians who fell in his way with his characteristic cruelty, but it was truly painful to hear that even General Aldoa, who in private life has the reputation of great urbanity and benevolence, should

have subjected himself to a similar charge, by shooting all who were made captives, excepting the younger children; a system which is still unblushingly perpetrated to the present day.

Although water for all agricultural purposes is abundant at Mendoza, scarcely any is drinkable until it has passed through the process of filtration; being naturally turbid and discoloured from the quantity of snow water and earthy decomposition which it receives in its passage through the mountain defiles. The country people, who take no such precaution, drink it without hesitation, and are generally subject to that usual deformity, the goitre, which appears to be the invariable consequence in every part of the world, irrespective of climate or situation. Having no drip-stone, we employed a common tin funnel, with a clean washed sponge, pressed rather lightly into the widest end of the tube, which, with proper attention in cleaning it, was found to answer perfectly. It is a simple substitute, easily carried, and on all occasions where wholesome water is not to be procured, would greatly contribute to the health and comfort of those who are unable to provide themselves with a more costly or cumbrous apparatus.

The climate of Mendoza is certainly delightful, but from the little experience which we had, and the accounts we received from those who had long

been resident, it must be exceedingly trying to persons of delicate constitutions, and ill adapted for patients who are not unfrequently sent there from Santiago and other parts for change of air, while suffering under pulmonary complaints. From its vicinity to the snows of the Cordillera it is subject to great and sudden transitions of temperature, and more especially to the keen blasts of southerly winds, at the very time when the scorching rays of the sun are powerfully felt through a cloudless sky.

As there are several schools at Mendoza, and all the rising generation are generally taught to read, I endeavoured to dispose of some of the Bibles and Testaments which we had still remaining; considering that when practicable this is always the best method; as, however low the price at which they are offered, they are more likely to be valued by the purchasers, and it becomes a criterion by which to judge of the estimation in which the sacred volume is regarded. It was accordingly proposed to D. Borje Gomez, who kept one of the principal shops, that provided he returned me one rial (value about sixpence) he was at liberty to dispose of them at any price they would fetch. After remaining on his shelf for some days without a purchaser, he recommended me to withdraw them as unsaleable, alleging that the demand for books

was almost exclusively confined to breviaries, school-books, and novels, and that he had no expectation of disposing of a single copy. The gratuitous method was now resorted to and commenced on the spot, he himself gladly receiving one Bible, and his cousin, who happened to be present at the time, another. Among each of the other tradesmen whom we had employed, and their families, as also to several of our neighbours in the country, both Bibles and Tracts were subsequently given. In one instance only was a Bible refused, but even this individual readily received the tracts which were intended to accompany it. It soon became generally known that we were distributing the Scriptures, and instead of opposition being raised, as I had anticipated, applications for copies became frequent. On the 10th of October, two days before we took our leave of this now interesting spot, two young men walked out late in the evening from the town with a similar request, which of course was readily granted. From this time we had no occasion to seek opportunities for distributing either the Scriptures or the tracts. Even before breakfast several were seen waiting in the pateo for admittance, in order to apply for them, and on the 11th no less than twenty-two individuals, chiefly women and children, were in the room at one time, all eagerly begging for

Bibles. Before they were all supplied our little stock was exhausted, a circumstance which occasioned much disappointment to those who had been unsuccessful, and one young women in particular would hardly take a denial; the tears actually started into her eyes when she found that there was neither a Bible nor a testament left. The tracts containing cuts on the back were invariably preferred, as among our own poor, but all evinced far greater anxiety to possess copies of the Scriptures. It was indeed a trying situation—on one hand to observe the avidity with which the word of God was sought—on the other to feel our utter inability to supply their wants. We afterwards learnt that the two young men who came for books on the preceding evening were pupils in the school of "Primeras Letras" (grammar school) and that among the applicants which subsequently arrived, were many other of their schoolfellows. A gratifying circumstance connected with this school I should now here relate, since it shows more than any other how freely the Scriptures may be circulated at Mendoza. The day before we left, one of these lads left me a note from the Preceptor, as the masters of these schools are styled, expressing his acknowledgment for the books, in the name of his scholars, with many thanks and good wishes for my health and safety. As I was not even

aware, until the receipt of this note, that the lads in question were under any course of instruction, it was the more satisfactory, and bespeaks strongly the enlightened views of their worthy Preceptor.

From the above-mentioned facts, as also from the reception which the Bibles and Testaments invariably met with from those to whom they were presented on the journey across the Pampas, there is every reason to believe that a door of vast usefulness is open, and that, with the exercise of common prudence, the Scriptures may be introduced without difficulty, and perhaps circulated without impediment, throughout a great portion of this vast continent. I should here observe, that in order to guard against improper distribution, I always required a verse from the Bible to be read aloud by each individual, prior to its being delivered to any, excepting of course those whose station did not render such a precaution necessary. Itinerating agents for the Bible and Tract Societies would find ample scope in this country, and under existing circumstances would perhaps be more extensively useful than those who are more permanent; especially as they would be enabled to visit districts remote from the great commercial routes, and would have the best possible means for ascertaining where depots for sale or distribution might be established.

While the governments, the laws, and even the prejudices of all these Spanish American States are continually subject to such sudden and violent interruptions and changes, it is scarcely possible by any other means to work out the good that might be continually progressing amidst all these subversions and modifications of their internal policy.

While a tacit prohibition of the word of God may obtain in one petty state, it may, as was the case at Mendoza, be as widely circulated in another, and this at the very same period when a stationary agent at any one given point may conclude, from his immediate observation, that the whole or the greater part of South America is closed to the efforts of the Societies in question,

May it please the Lord to open the way for the abundant entrance of his word, not only into this land of Scriptural darkness, but into the souls of the poor misguided people, and hasten the time when the wayfaring man may read for himself, and they shall no longer be led by idol shepherds!

CHAPTER III.

LEAVE MENDOZA—THE 'TROOP'—UZPALLATA—THE CORDILLERAS —THE CUMBRE—THE DESCENT—CHILI—SANTIAGO—JOURNEY TO CONCEPCION.

THE period had now arrived for resuming our journey, and although the passage across the Cordillera was still in some places encumbered with snow, and we were by some strongly advised to wait until it should become more open; I was notwithstanding, desirous to avoid any further delay, and as every preparation was completed, and the passage was reported safe, we set out from Mendoza on the 12th of October. The snow about the summit of the pass was said to be too deep for the passage of mules, the following arrangement was therefore made with Juan Savidra, the arriero who accompanied us, viz.—To provide two saddle mules, in case our own horses should be lamed or knocked up, seven baggage mules, and a mounted peon to lead the children, with the requisite peones to attend the baggage on the Mendoza side of the

'Cumbre,' or highest point of the route. Also four saddle and seven baggage mules on the Chilian side, with additional peones in proportion to the baggage, viz. two for each mule's burden, to transport it across the snow from one set of mules to the other, with four others for the conveyance of my family. Although this agreement was written in duplicate, and subscribed before witnesses, the only way to ensure any degree of punctuality in this country, it did not prove effectual, in this instance, to secure me against its infraction, and the consequent disappointment and delay, which was the more severely felt as it occurred at the very period when assistance was the most needed.

As our style of travelling, when accompanied with baggage, was uniformly the same in all our subsequent journeys, it may be as well to give a slight sketch of the 'troop,' (a term applied to all convoys of mules,) as it issued at a moderate amble from the outskirts of Mendoza. A white or pie-bald mare, dignified by the name of 'la madrina,' (Godmother,) with a bell attached to her neck, and led by a lad mounted by her side, precedes the whole party. Such a charm is there in the tinkling of this bell, and so great is the emulation among the mules to keep within the shortest distance of its sound, that they are seldom found to linger or break their line, unless tempted

by some wayside herbage when nearly exhausted with dust and fatigue. The packs, once arranged and secured on their backs, are never removed, but to be replaced, should they become loose, until the day's journey is completed ; which usually averaged from eight to nine hours. The greater part of our baggage was carried in canvas-bags, made to fit hide-cases, called árganas, which being coupled together by hide-lashings, were carried one on each side of a mule. They answered remarkably well, being extremely light, and if properly made, sufficiently water-tight. It is customary for the arrieros to place sixteen arrobas, equal to nearly four cwt., upon the back of each mule, but this is, generally speaking, too much, and often distresses them, especially upon long journeys ; so that I found it necessary to regulate my packages accordingly, never permitting above two-thirds of that weight to be packed upon each. In making up baggage for this country it is well to bear in mind that every box and parcel should be adapted for mule-carriage, and consequently should be as compact as possible ; if practicable, in pairs, and never exceeding two and a half in length, by fourteen inches wide. Immediately after the baggage, followed the children in their paniers, one on each side of a mule, led by a mounted peon riding before. These paniers, of the above di-

mensions, were made of raw hides laced to a flexible frame-work of wood, and were not only safe and convenient, but with the aid of cloaks and cushions were made so easy, that the children, when tired of sitting up, often slept as comfortably in them as in their beds. It is certainly preferable to the usual method of consigning each child to the rude grasp of a dirty peon, who carries it on the front of his saddle upon a pillow, on part of which, in order to prevent it from slipping, he himself sits.

Mrs. Gardiner and myself, mounted either on horses or mules, brought up the rear of this singular cavalcade, in order that we might observe the whole, and be ready to assist the children in case of difficulty; as it sometimes happened, during these long and tedious journeys, that the leader of their mule would fall fast asleep while unconsciously proceeding at his usual pace. But although our progress was necessarily slow, there was always a degree of life and character about it, which no mere description, however graphic, can justly convey.

The arriero belongs to a peculiar race, exhibiting much of the restless character of the wild Arab, and by two or three of these, not including the lad who attended the 'madrina,' we were generally accompanied: the principal one being

styled the 'capitaz,' whose duty it is to regulate the whole troop. Their costume, similar to that of the common gauchos, is picturesque, consisting of a conical sugar-loaf felt hat, without brim, as often sky-blue or rose-colour as brown or black, drawn tightly over a gaudy coloured cotton handkerchief, the points of which hang half way down the back, in order to afford that protection to the neck and ears from the rain and wind, which the collarless poncho is unable to supply. A light jacket, two pair of white cotton trowsers, one over the other, enveloped from the knee in a thick pair of black or green woollen gambadoes tied on below the knee, red socks, a huge pair of spurs, a large knife carried in the hinder part of a broad leather waist-belt, completes their riding costume, while the never-failing poncho, sometimes worn over the shoulders, sometimes confined like a sash round the waist, or laid across the front of the saddle, ready to hood-wink the first refractory mule, gives life and effect to the whole.

The rocks and valleys often rang with the long and sonorous sounds by which they are accustomed to warn or to animate the animals on their route; a vast improvement upon the harsh jargon of the Dutch and Hottentot drivers of the Cape colony. Neither whip nor rein is ever employed. Should they stray, they are instantly pursued, and with

a quick whirl of the lasso and a monitory shout, they are soon restored to their place in the troop, and whenever a pack requires rectifying, (however far in advance,) the particular mule is suddenly arrested by a lasso, adroitly cast over his head, which is soon after enveloped in a poncho; the sobering effect of which is instantaneous. Whether it be the dread of total darkness, or the instinctive apprehension of encountering danger when it cannot select its own path, the result is precisely such as would warrant either conclusion, for no sooner is the talismanic poncho cast over the eyes of the most restless and wayward of the troop, than he at once becomes not merely tractable but motionless, and so continues, as though paralyzed in every muscle, until the veil is removed; when, as it were, reanimated afresh, he sets off (however heavily laden) at a brisk trot, and never ceases until he has resumed his accustomed place among his companions.

Our first day's journey was the longest and the most uninteresting, the greater part laying through a flat and sandy district, covered with low bushes, but as there is no water until reaching a miserable hovel called Villavicencia, situated in a defile of the first mountain range, we had no choice but to continue our route during twelve hours. All our efforts to hurry the arriero on leaving Mendoza

were ineffectual, notwithstanding every thing was in readiness for lading the mules long before they were packed. His real object, as it soon appeared, was to conduct us to a house, not more than two miles from the charra we had left, for the night, and thence to start early on the following morning. Having packed up our beds and had all the trouble of preparing for a full day's journey, I insisted on his proceeding, which after considerable trouble, he at length consented to. So much however had we been delayed, that we did not reach Villavicencia, our first halting-place, until half past ten at night. Here we spread our mattresses, sheltered only by a crazy tenement of rough stones and grass thatch, in which it was scarcely possible to keep a candle burning during the operation; as the wind was high, and besides the entire deficiency of a door, two large openings on opposite sides of the walls, (probably intended to supply the place of windows) precluded all possibility of our being inconvenienced by the want of ventilation.

Between this place and Uzpallata, where we remained on the Sunday, the country is very rocky and broken; without hut, and having scarcely a vestige of vegetation, but this was compensated by some very striking views which were obtained from the heights we were ascending, of the widely

extended Pampas below. The rocky elevation from which this remarkable view is obtained is too high to admit of any distinctness in the appearance, even of the nearest objects on the plain, with the naked eye. Beyond the foreground of rocks on which we stood, a blue unbroken expanse like the ocean extends to the horizon, varied only by waved and concentric streaks of sand, which occur chiefly at the foot of the mountains, and so nearly resembled the rippling of broken water dashing upon a shelving beach when the tide is receding, that, convinced as I was to the contrary, I could scarcely persuade myself that I was not gazing upon the wide Atlantic. An effect somewhat similar I remember once to have witnessed, on first discerning from one of the highest points of the Simplon, the verdant plains of Lombardy, while descending towards the town of Duomo d'Ossola.

Uzpallata, a single farm, situated on the banks of a rapid stream, is a little oasis in the wilderness, affording excellent pasturage and very tolerable accommodation. It was on this account that we decided on commencing our journey on Friday, as we were thereby enabled to spend our first Sunday at the last inhabited abode, on the Mendoza side of the Cordillera, and to reach another on the Chilian by the following Saturday, besides

the additional advantage of refreshing our horses and mules at the only place where fodder can be procured throughout the intervening route. Every thing at Uzpallata was dear, but as it was indispensable there was no remedy.

Early the next day we reached the Mendoza river, which from its sinuous course, it was frequently necessary to ford, and for some considerable distance, we travelled literally along its stony bed; the rapid stream at this season occupying but a small portion of the space included between its steep and precipitous banks. As the road was scarcely open for mule-travelling, ours being the first troop which had passed this season, we found it in many places as we advanced so bad, that not even a track remained. For years nothing has been done on the Mendoza side to improve it; the first troop pioneers for the second, and so on, until, towards the middle of the season, by mere traffic alone, it becomes tolerably beaten and worn. Some of the most difficult passes are thus widened and improved, and the rest may be considered as comparatively good. It is on this account that the reports of travellers are so various and contradictory; to reconcile which it is only necessary to refer to the particular date of their observations. In our own case, we certainly did not find any of the difficulties exaggerated, but

rather the reverse; indeed, from the accounts previously received, I did not expect to have found so many places not merely difficult to ride over, but even dangerous to walk; but it must be remembered that had we waited but for a few weeks longer, we should no doubt have found it otherwise. On the afternoon of the 15th, we passed one of those dangerous spots, and two others on the following day, one leading to, and the other soon after leaving, what is usually termed the 'Bad Pass.' The latter was the most dangerous, and so exceedingly difficult, that although we dismounted, it was not without some risk of falling that we were able to lead the children across. In these places the slope of the mountain is so great, and the soil so dry, and stony, and crumbling, with so steep a precipice below, that the very stones which were loosened by the pressure of our feet as we advanced, rolled at once into the impetuous stream which was sweeping the rocks beneath. In such a situation one false step would have proved fatal; still our laden mules walked securely; and in some of the worst places, when it was almost equally dangerous to dismount, we ourselves rode when we could scarcely have walked without scrambling. Many parts of this route is strewed with the bones of mules, these useful animals being too frequently laden to

excess, and often driven until they can support their burden no longer. Some fall from exhaustion, others, by striking the jutting rocks with their packs in the narrow turnings, are not unfrequently precipitated down the slopes of the deep ravines. On the 17th, having reached that part of the road near which a mountain stream forces its way through a natural arch which connects the narrow valley with the opposite mountain, we turned aside to obtain a nearer view of the remarkable features of this singular spot, which has obtained the name of the 'Incas Bridge.' A few bushes, rarely to be met with in this part of the route, contribute to the picturesque effect, while the rocks which overhang the precipice, as well as those which support the slab which spans the stream below, are themselves so incrusted with the dripping from the hot and sulphurous springs which at a few yards distance bubble up to the surface, and occasionally overflow, that they exhibit a combination of the most lively and variegated colours, including all the intermediate shades from green to red, orange, and yellow. The temperature of these springs, which issue from small circular cavities in the solid rock, from eight to ten feet in diameter, are, as far as I could judge by the hand without a thermometer, about 88 or 90 degrees.

THE INCA'S BRIDGE.

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During our nightly bivouacs since leaving Uzpallata, we availed ourselves of a small marquee, made for the purpose at Mendoza, which proved a great comfort, and for a family is indispensable; in order to pitch it, however, some little contrivance was necessary. Anticipating some difficulty from the rocky nature of the soil, iron pegs had been provided, but so impervious was the strata, that although the most favourable ground was always selected, they were found to be perfectly useless. In this dilemma, as there were no trees, but one expedient remained, which was always afterwards adopted when requisite. The 'arganas' being laid on their flat sides on the ground, were arranged on either side of the tent, as also some of the heaviest packs, in a line with the poles before and behind; to these the tent lines were respectively toggled by the iron pegs, and with the addition of some heavy stones piled upon them, and likewise upon the lower edges of the tent; in order to keep it close to the ground: it was then properly extended, and remained perfectly secure, though the wind was often high. As we had now however reached that part of the route, which in the winter is entirely covered with snow, and where, without some places of shelter, the couriers, who occasionally cross on foot at that rigorous season, would inevitably perish, should

they be overtaken by a snow-storm in this critical part of their journey, we relinquished for a while the use of our frail tenement.

To the lasting credit of the Spanish government, several rest-houses at regular intervals were erected for this purpose, two of which we passed on this day, taking up our quarters for the night in the third. They are built entirely of burnt brick laid on lime, with a coped roof of the same material, supported by an arch which forms the ceiling; they contain but one room, which is entered by a flight of steep steps, the floors being raised about six feet from the foundation, in order to allow for the drifting of the snow in winter.*

At present they are in a most ruined and dilapidated condition, not merely for want of repair, but from the wanton spoliation of the inconsiderate arrieros, and others who, for the sake of kindling a fire for their own convenience, have not only consigned every one of the doors to the flames, but have actually torn away the upper beam and the side-posts, the only timber that could be extracted for a similar purpose. On our arrival, much time was occupied in endeavouring to clear away a little of the rubbish, in stopping up the loop-holes which answer for windows, and

* May not those remarkable towers, called Duns, in Scotland, have been erected for purposes somewhat similar.

in devising some expedient to block up the defective door-way, which we generally contrived to barricade, by spreading the tent over the baggage piled up as high as we could reach. Comfortless as these houses were, we gave them the decided preference to the marquee, the nights being now very cold.

The lee-side of the building sufficed for the hardy peones, who, regardless of better accommodation, having cooked their supper by a fire kindled with a few faggots collected by the way, spread some skin rugs (part of their mules' furniture) and gathering their ponchos around them, were soon unconscious of cold or fatigue, although the snow was breast-high within a few yards of the spot. On the following day, the third since leaving Uzpallata, we reached the long-expected " Cumbre," by a zig-zag path, leading directly up from the rest-house we had just left, but so exceedingly steep, that independent of some patches of deep snow, which it was necessary to cross, it was with great difficulty we could urge our tired horses along, although we had dismounted to relieve them during a part of the ascent. Having at length gained the summit, we sat down for some little time, while the mules were unlading, but without in the least degree experiencing that difficulty of respiration, called the " puma," which has

been described by some. If such be the case, of which there can be no doubt, since it has been asserted by many whose accuracy cannot be questioned,—its existence and degree must no doubt depend upon the state of the atmosphere and the particular season of the year. Instead of the number of peones previously stipulated for, only six met us at this point, having awaited our arrival at the nearest rest-house, but as the people who accompanied us from Mendoza were now about to return with the mules, and also my horses, which I had hoped to have led across the snow, we had only the addition of our unworthy capitaz to this weak and insufficient party. However, to do them justice, they worked well, and as it was no time for delay, I was obliged to work also. The day was beautiful, and although we were at the reputed height (for it has never been accurately computed) of 14,000 feet above the level of the sea, I laid aside my coat as an unnecessary incumbrance, while occupied in converting the children's panniers into a pair of mountain palanquins. This was effected by merely cutting an opening in the hide on one side for the feet to hang down, and slinging each of them to a tent-pole. Two men were found sufficient for each; the two children being seated together in one, and Mrs. Gardiner in the other. We had now entered

Chili, the highest point of the Cordillera forming the boundary, and in this singular manner we commenced the descent towards the second rest-house on tha t side; which from necessity was to be our halting-place for the night, as it was found quite impossible for so small a party of peones to convey the baggage further in one day, notwithstanding it was drawn for more than two-thirds of the distance upon the snow, instead of being carried as agreed. Several things, in consequence, got wet, and what was of more importance, we were one day longer on the journey to Santiago than we should otherwise have been.

The strength of these Chilian mountaineers is prodigious, but their skill was not so remarkable: indeed in one very critical spot, where the utmost caution was requisite, and it was found necessary to beat down foot-prints, knee-deep in the snow, before a steep ridge could be rendered practicable for the palanquins, they displayed a degree of ignorance which, in a Swiss guide, would have been unpardonable. It must however be remembered that the mode adopted for the conveyance of my family was altogether novel to them, it being the invariable practice, on such occasions, to hoist the *ladies* on their backs, and carry them like any other package belonging to the mules! As the surface of the snow was generally firm and the air

pleasant, Mrs. Gardiner accompanied me on foot during about six miles of this day's journey; but although we were early at our rest-house, the whole of the baggage did not arrive until late at night.

At the time we passed, there were from thirteen to fourteen miles of snow on the Chilian side of the "Cumbre," of which about five still remained to be traversed; but as it was all descent, this was soon accomplished on the following morning, and by the time that we had reached a path practicable for mules, the expected troop was awaiting our arrival at the foot of a rugged acclivity. The palanquins were soon unrigged, and the panniers restored to their original purpose, but it was some considerable time before all the baggage was collected and the mules packed. Notwithstanding the novelty of our late trip, and the many beautiful appearances which the snow-clad peaks assumed, particularly when tinted by the evening rays of the setting sun, we were not sorry to feel that the most difficult part of our journey was now accomplished, and once more to find ourselves mounted upon our sure-footed mules.

This evening we passed the first inhabited spot, one or two miserable ranchos, and when it became too late to proceed, we encamped for the night. On the following day, Saturday, the 20th, we

reached the foot of the mountains, and soon after, the small but picturesque town of Santa Rosa, sometimes called Villanueva.

The general character of the mountain route from Uzpallata to Los Ojos del Agua, on the Chilian side (a spot a few miles beyond the termination of the snow) was barren and wild, the ascent being much more gradual than the descent. Many of the glens and ravines were striking from the abrupt windings and rugged outlines of the adjacent mountains, but on the whole I was disappointed, and consider that until reaching the "Ojos del Agua" there is nothing to compare to the several Alpine passes into Italy, which in my opinion are far superior. Here are neither glaciers nor forests, the singular combination of which so greatly enhances the interest and enlivens the prospect in those romantic regions. From hence, however, a contrast may fairly be drawn, and perhaps in favour of American scenery. As we continued to descend, a remarkable change took place; grass, flowers, heaths, shrubs; trees also in greater and greater profusion gradually appeared, until we were almost overshadowed amidst their luxuriant foliage. Numerous cascades gushed from the highest points, and, divided and broken in their fall, descended in beautiful and silvery lines, sweeping round the broken fragments of rock which

strewed the slopes of the ravines through which we passed. In one of these romantic glens we pitched our tent on the evening of the 9th, on the steep bank of a mountain stream which was boiling over a rocky bed below. The scenery on the following day was, if anything, more splendid, and continued beautiful all the way to the town of Santa Rosa; but certainly the most striking views are to be met with between the 'Ojos del Agua,' and the rustic bridge of the Colorado, itself a highly picturesque spot, and which may rank among some of the most splendid which the world can afford. The character of all, however, is wild and desert-like—two or three ranchos indeed appear to indicate the existence of man, but in general something more is wanting to produce the full effect:—a spire, a chapel, a villa, a hamlet, a martigne with its bridge spanning the abyss!—none of these points of contrast, which so greatly enhance the character of scenery, however sublime, are to be traced; but it has, notwithstanding, left an image of terrestrial beauty so vividly impressed upon the mind, that it can never be forgotten nor contemplated without delight.

Oh! that our thoughts may ever be raised by such scenes 'from nature up to nature's God.' To the Christian they must always bear a twofold interest; and while with wonder and admiration

he beholds these lower manifestations of the power and wisdom and benevolence of the Almighty Creator of the universe, he humbly adores that unspeakable condescension and love which has not overlooked his low estate, but encouraged him, the most unworthy of all his creatures, to lift up his head, and through atoning grace to regard him as his reconciled Father, his unchangeable friend; one that sticketh closer to him than a brother!

I was surprised to find that no pure granite occurred in our immediate route; the rocks being chiefly sienite, slate, and lime-stone, the former in some parts is very abundant. There are few animals in these regions; hawks and vultures were almost the only birds that we saw, and only on one occasion were a few guanacos seen, grazing on the summit of an almost inaccessible crag, on the Mendoza side of the 'cumbre.' We were much struck by the discoloured appearance of the water which drained from beneath the melting snow, and particularly in contrasting it with those pure and crystal streams with which it occasionally mingles; the different colours of the two waters being distinctly perceptible for a considerable distance after the junction. So much earthy and vegetable deposit seemed to be taken up in the snow-water, that were it not sufficiently established by fact, it

could scarcely be doubted that in some way or other it must prove injurious; the wonder seems rather to be that its effects do not more materially derange the animal system. For some distance before reaching Santa Rosa there is much cultivation on both sides of the road; the fields are irrigated, as near Mendoza, by ducts led out from the mountain streams; and the wayside ranchos, though most comfortless abodes, have a very picturesque appearance, as seen scattered among orchards and hedge-rows, themselves sometimes overhung with gourds and vines. From hence to Santiago, which occupied a day and a half, the road winds through a succession of fertile valleys of unequal width, separated by narrow ridges or detached conical mountains. The most considerable of these questas or ridges overlooks the straggling village of Coligni, and commands a fine view; but we were too late to enjoy it, and were glad to reach the neighbouring "posada," or inn, where we were tolerably accommodated for the night, viz. some raised planks were laid for a bedstead, and two chairs and a table supplied by way of furniture, in the only room which was vacant. But although we could now appreciate the full advantage of a door, it was not quite so convenient to be entirely without a window, a frequent defect in these dungeon-like abodes.

At Santiago there was but one respectable inn, which is kept by an Englishman of the name of Campbell, where, with some difficulty, we were taken in, the house being small and nearly full when we arrived.

In reference to our late journey from Mendoza I would remark one or two circumstances. It is not customary either in the Pampas, at Mendoza, or in Chili, to shoe their horses, but for the Cordillera passage I was recommended to put shoes on their fore-feet, a precaution which was afterwards found to be absolutely necessary; and my only regret is that they were not shod throughout; had this been done I have little doubt but my best horse, who was much cut about and lamed, particularly while travelling over the stony bed of the Mendoza river, would have been saved. Gloves should be worn for protection, if not for comfort; I had disregarded them altogether, not feeling inconvenience from the cold, but no sooner had we left the snowy regions, than my fingers became so chapped and painful and inflamed, that it was necessary to apply hot poultices on reaching Santa Rosa, which soon allayed the irritation, but it was some days before they were entirely well.

In some of the narrow mountain passes too much care cannot be taken to keep always in the rear of the baggage mules; they have an habitual an-

xiety to keep their station in the troop, and should any of them be detained either by obstacles in the path, or to be repacked, the instant they are disengaged they hasten forward, regardless of the mutual inconvenience of jostling past their laded companions, until this is effected. While ascending the winding pathway which leads directly to the "Bad Pass," one of them had, unperceived by me, been stopped by the arriero to have his pack adjusted, which, besides the usual lading, was carrying the tent-poles lashed as we should say "fore and aft," on the top of all. Just as we had reached a point where it was impossible for two animals to pass abreast without one of them being hurled down the precipice into the river below, I perceived this liberated mule hastening towards us with an apparent determination to pass. So imminent was the danger that the poles were within three or four feet of Mrs. Gardiner's head, who was riding immediately behind me; even a twist of the animal's body, in another second might have proved fatal. Sliding off my horse, for there was not space to dismount in any other way, I warned her of the approaching danger, and most providentially was enabled as promptly to unseat her as I had done myself; we then crept into a hollow, which at this particular spot is formed by an overhanging rock, and with the children quietly and

securely waited until the whole cavalcade had passed by. There were many anxious moments during the rapid descent from the Ojos del Agua to the bridge of Colorado, when we felt apprehensive of the children's safety, for had not the utmost caution been observed, when the panniers occasionally grazed the jutting rocks, which in many places overhung the winding pathway, the mule might have been overbalanced, and must have inevitably fallen, probably to the bottom of the ravine; but in the former instance the danger was so evident, and the hope of escape (humanly speaking) so slender, that I desire to thank my God for this especial mercy vouchsafed to us, as also for all the numberless instances of his preserving care which have followed us in all our journeyings: may their result be that which we alone purpose as their aim and end—glory to his holy name.

There is no place perhaps in any part of the world where the police is more vigilant and inquisitorial than in Santiago; as we entered the city we were met upon the bridge by one of these "Vigilantes," as they are termed, mounted and armed with a sabre, who abruptly demanded my name, &c. Day and night they are always on the watch, and are to be seen, either riding along their respective beats or stationed at the crossings of the

rectangular streets, attentively regarding all that passes.

The most rigorous admirers of arbitrary rule could not desire a more suitable arrangement than has been observed in the disposition of some of the public buildings of this city. On one side of the principal square, adjoining each other, though not quite *en suite*, are the President's palace, the public offices, the main guard-house, the gaol, and the courts of justice. The two last mentioned are under one roof, and the whole, notwithstanding their whitewashed exterior, and extinguisher-like towers, have a handsome appearance. The fountain in the centre of this square has been greatly embellished by a marble monument, executed in Spain, and recently erected; but its allegorical import is so very ambiguous, that, although I took some pains to scan its meaning, it has never appeared to me satisfactory. The group consists of two figures, one, habited as a Roman soldier, breaking off the fetters of the other, apparently an Indian captive, probably intended to personify America. Thus far the story would be simple enough, but while this heroic warrior is delivering the oppressed captive at his feet with one hand, his other is inflicting a stunning blow upon the head of her he seems otherwise desirous to save. If this be the real character of South

American philanthropy, it could not indeed have been more graphically pourtrayed.

Although the situation of Santiago is exceedingly beautiful, and in itself it is perhaps one of the cleanest and best-built cities in South America, it is necessary to leave the uniform level of the streets, and to ascend some of the neighbouring heights, in order to form any idea of the surrounding scenery; that of Santa Lucia is the most accessible and the nearest. This singular rock rises abruptly on the north side of the city, and from the summit, near which is a ruined fort, commands one of the most extensive and striking views in this part of Chili, comprising not merely the city, with its suburbs, and poplar promenades, but the fertile valley in which it is situated, broken by other detached hills, and bounded on the west by a long line of Cordillera, whose summit is clothed with perpetual snow.

Having been detained at Santiago rather longer than I had anticipated, in order to make preparation for the remainder of our land journey, we were unable to set out on our way to Concepcion until Saturday the 3rd of November. Although we did not reach Concepcion till the 23rd, we were only a fortnight actually on the road, reaching Talca in seven days, and occupying the same time from thence to Concepcion; the remainder

includes Sundays, with four days at Talca and one at Chillan, on which we did not travel. The whole distance is 480 miles, which added to that from Mendoza to Santiago, which is 315, makes 795 miles that we have ridden on these two journeys. The same style of travelling was adopted as before; we might indeed have employed gigs as far as Talca, about half-way, but they would have added greatly to the expence, without contributing much to our comfort, independent of the risk and danger of such a mode of conveyance. The accommodations were various, sometimes a noisy 'posada,' sometimes a private house, as often (from the caprice of the arriero, who invariably endeavoured if possible to prevent us from approaching beyond the very outskirts of a town or village, in order that he might procure *entertainment* for himself and his beasts at a lower rate,) a wretched outhouse, which in England would have scarcely been thought suitable for herding calves. It is in vain to reason with these people, who are often more self-willed than their mules; and as we were chiefly dependant upon them as guides through a country where, generally speaking, there are no inns, we found it best to make up our minds to the discomfort, which in many instances it was impossible for a stranger to avoid. On two occasions, where there was abso-

lutely no accommodation, we had resort to the marquee.

At Payne, our first halting-place, and where we remained for the Sunday, we were lodged at the Posada dignified by the name of 'El Hospital,' but where we had not even a bedstead in a room, through the roof of which in parts where the thatch was thin, we could observe the stars, when the candle was extinguished. In these country inns, a ballad-singer is considered as indispensable, who is constantly employed during the day, in order to attract customers. She takes her post near the principal entry, accompanying her voice, generally loud and cracked, with her guitar. No exception is made, even on the Sabbath, and this desecration of the Lord's day continued, with very little intermission, from soon after sunrise until sunset; but it was not the only annoyance, wine, which is here less than a rial, (6d.) a bottle, soon began to circulate, and many who came only to listen, could scarcely sit upon their horses when they returned. At Talca, we were far better accommodated at the Cafe del Comerico, but in the inner court, exactly facing our windows, was a cock-pit, which was only opened on Sundays. From the first dawn of daylight we were disturbed by the shrill crowing of the numerous cocks which, in order to be in readiness, had been leg-tied in

every corner of the two pateos. By eleven the place was crowded with spectators, and from that time until one or two o'clock in the afternoon, the noise and disturbance was so great, that we were literally obliged to take our books and adjourn to the hedges in the outskirts of the town for retirement. It is truly painful to reflect that a government, calling itself Christian, should not only tolerate this barbarous pastime, but carry to its account as a considerable item of its revenue, the sums which it annually acquires from the licenses granted to those who thus openly bid defiance to the better feelings of humanity, and the express commands of God.

In the route we were now pursuing, the rivers may be regarded as the chief obstacle, for although comparatively low at the season we passed, all were rapid and some but barely fordable; clearly indicating that, as the summer advanced, these difficulties would greatly increase. But a small portion of their stony beds was occupied by the stream, which forces its way through many lateral channels, diverging and reuniting in its course, so that before we could fairly be said to have passed any particular river, such as the Maypu, the Cachapaul, or the Quilchideguas, &c. three or four separate branches, each perhaps as high as the horses' chests, were respectively to be forded.

The larger rivers, such as the Maule and the Nuble, were crossed in rude boats called 'lanchas' the mules being unladen and swam across. Although intersected by so many deep and rapid streams, there is not a single bridge throughout the whole route, with the exception of that which spans the Quindiridica near the small town of San Fernando. It is on the suspension principle, the best adapted for these wide and suddenly-swelling streams, and although of a very rude construction, it is sufficient, but allowed to go sadly out of repair. The platform is composed of parallel battons, lashed closely and transversely across the strong ropes, some of hide, others of hemp, which connect the points of suspension. Some ridge lines for security on either side, complete the bridge; which rests upon high piles driven perpendicularly into the banks; the ends of the suspending hawsers being attached, at a considerable angle beyond these, to others, driven slantingly into the ground almost to their heads. It was interesting to trace in this rude but simple contrivance, the same principle which has been carried out and brought to such great perfection in our own and other countries, and which has given rise of late years to some of the most useful and ingenious works of art.

In speaking generally of the scenery through

which we passed, there is perhaps less difficulty than in almost any other country; for although there is doubtless great and endless variety, but two grand distinctions of character were remarkable, which may be said to merge into each other in the vicinity of the river Maule, and to become totally different after passing the Itata. With many exceptions the first section, which is by far the most considerable, may be characterized as consisting chiefly of open grass downs almost bare of trees, the road winding through level valleys, widening and contracting as we proceeded, sometimes, as in the case of the Cachapaul, scarcely leaving room for the river to pass, at others expanding to the very foot of the Cordillera. These valleys, although apparently closed by the projecting shoulder of a mountain, or hemmed in by some detached conical hill, are generally continuous, and so remarkably level to the very base of the mountains that spring abruptly from them, that I am almost induced to compare them to the surface of an unruffled lake, if such could be conceived, suddenly transformed into a solid plain covered with grass and vegetation. Each conical hillock would then in reality be what it now appears, an island, springing from the plain; while the darkened line which margins the foot of the lateral mountains on either side, would mark the

limits of the verdant lake. There are but few trees in these districts, and but rarely patches of cultivation, the population being very thin: pasture grounds are more frequent, but we had almost continually in view on our left a long and continuous line of the snow-topped Andes, considerably less elevated however than those gigantic ranges which I have beheld in Peru. The hills on our right formed an intervening ridge between the valleys we were traversing, and the coast; among which we were informed there are some extensive forests, particularly in the neighbourhood of the river Maule, but none are perceptible on their eastern slopes.

Notwithstanding some of the peaks in the Cordillera had been pointed out and designated as volcanoes, there are none in this part which have not long since ceased to be active; still they retain their peculiar conical form, although from the disturbance of frequent eruptions, they appear, as is especially perceptible in that of Chillan, to have lost their apexes. Trees were only observed on the lower slopes of these mountains, but the light and shade which in the morning and evening played upon their bold and indented outline frequently enlivened the prospect, and gave great effect to their general appearance. After passing Chillan, proverbially the cheapest town in all

Chili, the road takes a direction nearer to the coast, which may account for the change of scenery which we soon afterwards experienced on crossing the Itata. From this river to Concepcion, the country is generally much broken by a succession of rounded hills, covered with patches of large trees, and exhibiting a red clayey soil, which from the number of vineyards and corn-farms which we now passed, appeared to be very fertile.

This district, which is the granary of Chili, is subject during a great part of the year to heavy rains, which, combined with the effect of a powerful sun during the summer months, has channelled so many wide and deep chasms in the surface, that at first I supposed they must have been produced chiefly, if not entirely, by the frequency of the earthquakes, which are experienced in this part of the country, but this I was assured was not the case; though it is not improbable that such great disturbances of the soil may have contributed to their enlargement. So suddenly and abruptly did they cross our track, and that at points where the road was well beaten to their very brink, that the arrieros themselves were frequently in suspense, and obliged to turn back and follow another connecting that part of the road which had been severed by the falling in of the ground since they had previously passed. Near La Florida, when

about a day's journey from Concepcion, we lost sight of the Cordillera, which had accompanied us thus far; but the intervening hills, which concealed them from our view, were so broken and wooded, and afforded so many picturesque sites, that we soon became reconciled to their loss in the landscape.

Concepcion, like every other town which I have seen in Chili, is situated in a valley, and as there are few trees and very little cultivation in its immediate neighbourhood, much of the surrounding soil being sandy, it made but little appearance as we approached. This however is partly owing to its present ruined and comparatively deserted condition, every church and public building having been laid prostrate by the destructive earthquake of 1835, when all the houses of brick or stone were either unroofed or partially thrown down. We seemed to be entering a deserted city, and after threading one or two long streets consisting of ranchos, broken walls, and patched up or newly erected houses, we at length reached the Cafe del Comercio, where we were well accommodated, and received great civility from the landlord, Don Hermenijildo Marcenlli. All that we had heard of the desolations occasioned by earthquakes were fully realised, by the effects which we had already witnessed. At Talca, which is considered as the

fourth town in Chili, every house exhibited some traces of its violence; whole stories were wanting in some, others were newly roofed; the churches were all in ruins, and the principal one a heap of rubbish. At Chillan the devastation was still more remarkable, insomuch that a great proportion of the inhabitants had removed to another site, about two miles distant, where they have founded what is now called New Chillan, to distinguish it from the old town, part of which is repaired, and still inhabited. It was at Old Chillan that we took up our quarters when we passed.

The village of Parral, near the river Membrillar, was but just restored, every house having been unroofed, and the glaring red of the fresh tiles, as contrasted with the weather-stained walls, had a singular effect as we approached, and bespoke the calamity which had befallen the inhabitants. All this was the effect of the last great earthquake in 1835, but although in extent greater, it was in degree nothing in comparison with that which we now beheld—a city of ruins, or rather, rising, phœnix-like, from among them.

Concepcion was partially destroyed in 1730, entirely thrown down in 1751, and again recently, as has been stated, in February 1835; still are the inhabitants, many of whom for some time retired

to their country farms, returning to their wonted occupations, assiduously employing themselves in rebuilding their houses upon the original sites, and endeavouring to restore the city to its former importance.

At Talca, brick and stone, notwithstanding the warning they have had, are still employed in these repairs; at Chillon and Concepcion, where the shocks were more severely felt; the temporary churches, with their now detached belfries, are all of wood, but I was indeed surprised to find that the Franciscan monastery at New Chillan was rebuilding with brick, and that, with a very few exceptions, all the new houses in Concepcion were constructing with the same material; much more timber is however introduced into the frame-work than formerly, and the walls are tied together at the angles with strong beams. During the five weeks that we resided in this city, we experienced two shocks of earthquake; the first was rather severe, making the walls to rock, the open doors to swing, and glasses and decanters to strike against each other. The first indication was the cracking of the boarded ceiling, like the bulk-heads of a vessel at sea when she is rolling.

In the midst of these awful visitations, how conspicuous is the hand of God in providing to multitudes who might otherwise be suddenly

deprived of life, the means of escape. Had the earthquake of 1835 occurred, as that of 1751, in the night, instead of in the middle of the day, in all human probability, but a very few individuals would have been saved, as so little warning was given; while in the latter instance, although the whole city had retired to rest, the preceding shocks were so great, that few, excepting invalids, were prevented from effecting their escape.

We, who in our own country are exempt from such visitations, are often inclined to congratulate ourselves, that our lot is not cast where such devastations are experienced, and can indulge our surprise, when we observe the lower apartments of the same house occupied and deliberately embellished, which but a short time before was deprived of its upper story, as at Concepcion; or wonder at the temerity of him who still clings to the shattered tenement, round which a stream of lava has circulated in its course down the slopes of Vesuvius, but too few are by these things led to consider the shortness and uncertainty of life, and the importance of preparing for eternity. Are not each and all such instances but living commentaries upon more fatal and far less excusable presumption? Do they not stand out in bold relief, to remind us of the awful reluctance

of the natural man to flee from the wrath to come; and is not their result too often a re-echo of those monitory words of our Lord, " If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead."

CHAPTER IV.

VISIT TO THE INDIANS—RETURN TO CONCEPCION—SAN PABLO —COLEURA BAY—ARANCO—TALCAHUANO—VALDIVIA.

BEING now within a short distance of what was generally considered as the territory of the Indians, it was with much interest that we viewed the beautiful wooded hills on the opposite side of the Biobio, and, in the hope that it might not be long ere we were located among them, I hastened to make the necessary preparations for a journey of inspection, in order to acquire that information for our guidance, which could not otherwise be obtained.

It was satisfactory to hear that peace had long been maintained between the two parties, and that whatever might be the difficulties in the way of communicating to them the saving truths of the gospel, which has been the sole object of our visit to this country, we should not at least have this most formidable one to contend with.

Although house-rent, as might be supposed

from the present circumstances of Concepcion, is dearer than in other parts of Chili, with the exception always of Valparaiso, where foreigners have given a fictitious value to every thing; a lodging was soon procured, and sufficiently furnished for our purpose, so that, having purchased two saddle-horses on the late journey, and two others here for carrying packs, I was enabled on Thursday the 6th of December, to set out for the interior.

Had the river Biobio, as I had been led to suppose, been the real frontier between this part of Chili and the Independent Indians, a few hours would have been sufficient for my first journey: but such is not the case; from time to time, either by capture, or artifice, or purchase, a considerable tract of country on the left bank of the river, in which are some of the best farms and grazing grounds, is occupied and claimed by the Chilenos.

In proportion to the distance from the coast, the breadth of this acquired territory is diminished, until the Biobio itself becomes the actual boundary. Considering that there would be less probability of meeting with opposition from the Popish priests, in that part where the line of demarcation was so distinct, than by entering at a nearer point, though a mixed population of Chilenos and Indians, which would be the case immediately opposite to Concepcion, I resolved to make

my way by the nearest route to Los Angeles, the principal military post on this frontier, and thence to cross into the Indian territory at the most convenient point.

My servant, who was engaged for the trip, rode upon the spare horse, leading the two which were packed, tied together, and thus we commenced our journey. Until reaching the village of Gualque, about eighteen miles from Concepcion, the road reads along the banks of the Biobio, which are wooded and hilly, affording in many parts a delightful shade, and some beautiful views of the windings of the river, with its islands; which, from many points, assumes quite the character of a lake, particularly when seen through the thick screen of overhanging bamboos which occasionally intermingle with the larger trees.

From Gualque we left the immediate bank of the river, and commenced an ascent over a very hilly and broken country, which continued almost to the town of Yumbel, which we reached on the evening of the second day. In this part of the country there is scarcely a level spot, the soil is red clay, the hills are rounded, and the whole features of the landscape are similar to those described on our route between the Itala and Concepcion. Many of the corn fields were without fences, and the country buildings are altogether

wretched, consisting almost entirely of ranchos—a generic term, including all those comfortless cabins or hovels, which are constructed with rough poles, wattled with boughs, and thatched with grass or rushes; they are sometimes plastered with mud, but more frequently this is dispensed with. On the second day the Cordillera was seen, but from that time we gradually left the region of trees, the hills also soon after passed into undulating downs, terminating at length in extensive plains, on approaching Los Angeles, which we reached on the evening of the following day, Saturday the 8th.

During this journey four rivers were crossed, the two first, Rio Clara, and Rio Laxa, are considerable streams; but these we were able to ford without difficulty; a rude ferry-boat conveying us across the third, called the Cariboria, which is deep and rapid, with steep rocky banks on both sides.

At Los Angeles I was fortunate in finding accommodation in the house of an Italian, (Signor Camilo Monte,) who speaks English well. This evening I waited upon the Commandant of the frontier, Major Barga, who, on receiving the passport I had brought from the Intendente of Concepcion, and being made acquainted with my desire to enter the Indian territory, first dissuaded me from the attempt, saying that it was unsafe,

and then kindly promised to furnish me with a letter to the officer commanding at the advanced post of San Carlos, with instructions to afford me every facility in his power, should he deem it prudent to cross the frontier.

In order to ensure greater retirement on the following day, (Sunday) I had proposed, as accustomed, to spend some time in the open fields, and as there was no shade, was reclining under some high grass, when suddenly a man rode up, and abruptly enquired what I was doing there. I immediately shewed him my Testament, and said that I was reading. No, he replied, you are not reading, and instantly sprang from his horse. Not knowing what his intentions might be, and aware that all these country people are armed with long knives, I also sprang upon my legs. My occupation was so entirely novel to his ideas, that he could not be persuaded that it was not altogether a fiction.

'Why are you alone?' he continued, 'you are come here to steal cattle. What are you doing upon my ground?' &c. &c. Having endeavoured in vain to explain all to his satisfaction, he insisted that I should follow him to his house, in order that he might ascertain who I was, pointing at the same time to a spot still more secluded and remote from the town.

Not being as yet altogether satisfied as to the sincerity of his pacific professions, although he had gratuitously intimated that others would not have scrupled to have killed me, adding for my comfort that he had no such murderous design; I at once resolved that nothing but force should induce me to comply with his desire, telling him that I was known to the Commandant, and that if he had any complaint to make, it would be attended to at the Barracks, where I should go and nowhere else. Without leaving him time to reply, I walked steadily forward in that direction; the barracks to my relief soon came in view, but before I reached them, my friend was out of sight, having turned off in an opposite direction. This circumstance was a lesson to me not to act, on this wild frontier, where, as he expressed himself, 'the people are bad,' and where, in many instances, the pasture grounds are without fences, with as little caution as I had hitherto done in other parts, where I had never met with the slightest interference.

We were now about ninety miles from Concepcion, and within twelve of San Carlos, which we reached in good time on Monday morning, having not only been furnished by Major Barga with the promised letter, but also with a trooper to escort me. My baggage, with the exception of a cloak

and a poncho to sleep in, and some few presents for the Indians, was left at Los Angeles, since leaving which we had forded two rivers, the last, called the Duqueco, was deep, and is often unfordable without a balsa. The country was still open, with occasional patches of brush-wood.

My first interview with Captain Senega, the commandant of this post, was somewhat strange, for although it was nigh mid-day when we arrived, he had not yet risen from his bed. Here, for the first time, a horn containing a mixture of parched meal and water, a very common beverage in this part of the country, introduced by the Indians, was handed to me. Notwithstanding the dissuasions of Major Barga, I was glad to find that no such apprehensions were entertained by Captain Senega, who seemed to be well conversant with the habits and manners of the Indians: several of them were observed about his quarters, with whom he conversed with apparent ease and fluency. From the conversation which I afterwards had with him, it appeared that the nearest independent native chief of any note, resided at a place called Piligen, and as this was not more than twenty-four miles distant, and could be reached in the course of the day, it was agreed that I should at once set out, accompanied by one of the government interpreters, and a native chief, who resided on the oppo-

site bank of the river, and happened to be on the spot at the time.

But there was an impediment to the speedy accomplishment of this plan. The Biobio, still a respectable stream, is in this part exceedingly rapid, and the balsa, by which alone it is fordable, was adrift, and a new one had to be prepared out of some spare logs, already collected for the purpose. A party had indeed been ordered to perform this necessary operation, but it was in vain to hurry them, and much time was consumed before it was completed to their satisfaction, and the balsa was reported to be ready. It consisted merely of four trunks of trees, about eighteen feet long, lashed closely together by hide-thongs to two transverse poles, one at each extremity, and when laden with ourselves and our saddles, &c. (the trooper having been left at the fort until our return) it was scarcely an inch at the highest part from the surface of the water. As a matter of precaution, I not only took off my shoes and stockings, but also my coat and waistcoat, a measure which seemed to be regarded by the rest of the party as by no means unnecessary, for I had scarcely stepped upon the yielding raft when an inquiry was made whether I could swim or not. But in the construction of this balsa, there was nothing new, the real novelty, at least to me, was in the method of

navigating it. One of my horses, which was noted as an excellent swimmer, had not escaped observation by the way, and his powers were now to be tried in a most ludicrous manner. His tail was first smoothed out, and the hairs being doubled back, were firmly knotted to the end of the tow-rope. A naked lad then sprang upon his back, and in plunged the horse and his rider. By a simultaneous effort of those on the shore, the balsa he was destined to tow, was at the same instant pushed off into deep water. Partly by riding, partly by swimming, now on one side, now on the other of the horse, firmly grasping throughout a tuft of long hair always left on the mane expressly for this purpose, the boy succeeded by the aid of his heels, his hand, and his voice, in urging on the snorting and half-affrighted animal, until he actually convoyed us, with no other help, in safety to the opposite bank, when he was immediately disengaged, and the balsa secured by the rope until we landed. This of course could only be effected by going diagonally down the stream, but I doubt if any other than a South American horse would have performed his part so well without a long period of previous training. The banks on this side of the river were lower and less steep than those we had just left; by half-past two we were again mounted, and in three hours reached

Piligen, crossing in our way the rivers Buran and Mulchayn. So sinuous is the course of the latter stream that although it turned off from the direction of the path at the point where it was forded, we soon afterwards found ourselves skirting its banks, at a spot where it was observed rapidly sweeping the base of some perpendicular cliffs, and almost insulating a considerable tract of low ground clothed with luxuriant grass, and dotted over with clumps of ornamental trees, which formed a delightful contrast with the open downs we were traversing. The appearance of the country improved as we advanced, but with the exception of three or four houses, nearly opposite to San Carlos, no trace of a human habitation was discerned until we approached Piligen. The first individual whom we met was Corbalan himself, the chief of the district, who was galloping his horse in another direction, but, on perceiving us, cut across and escorted us to his house.

These people, who are excellent horsemen, always appear to the best advantage when mounted. He was attired in a dark coloured poncho, and seated with bare legs upon a rude kind of saddle-tree, above and beneath which a couple of sheep-skins were strapped, his great toes alone being thrust into the tiny wooden stirrups. A red fillet or head-band (a most becoming part of their dress)

worn around the forehead confined in that part his long black hair, which flowed loosely on his shoulders, and concealed more than half his face, the expression of which was remarkably mild and intelligent. He received me with much hospitality, and before even a hint was given of any intended present, a sheep was ordered to be killed and dressed for our supper. The house, which is of an oval form, about thirty-five feet long, with a high pitched roof supported by a centre row of interior posts, formed but one apartment. The wattled sides, which were about five feet high, as also the roof which projected considerably over them, were neatly thatched with grass. The floor was of mud, though not so smoothly laid as is customary among the Zulus; there were no windows, but the door, which was set on the side near one end, was of convenient height and width. No excavation is made for the fire-place, which is always in the centre, where all the cooking is performed, but notwithstanding this, little inconvenience is experienced from the smoke, which is drawn up by the current of air which enters the door, and passes away through two openings which for this purpose are always left in the roof, one at each extremity of a raised ridge-coping, beneath which the rafters are coupled. This simple expedient is found so convenient that it has been

adopted by the Chilenos in the construction of their ranchos. In new settlements, where fires are necessary for warmth, and chimneys cannot readily be built, such a contrivance might be found convenient, until more suitable buildings were constructed. If properly made the rain will not enter, as the extra ridge-pole and coping is made to project considerably over the openings on either side. Much cleanliness was observed in the preparation of their food, the meat was previously washed, and afterwards skewered upon a bamboo, by which it was held slantingly over the fire until thoroughly grilled; it was then cut into pieces and offered to us in wooden bowls. They had no milk, but gave us the usual beverage, parched meal and water, together with some 'pinones' (the seed of the cordillera pine) which is nutritive and farinaceous, in flavour resembling a roasted chesnut. They are found in great abundance in this part of the cordillera, and have become so necessary an article of consumption among the neighbouring tribes, that, whenever the crop is scanty, or the snow precludes their access to some of those parts where they have been accustomed to collect them, they are subject to considerable inconvenience. As they will keep long, they are often imported into the southern districts of Chili, and when boiled, are eaten by the country people

either hot or cold. Before we retired to rest, for which purpose Corbalan ordered a smooth bullock's hide to be spread for me on the floor, much conversation took place around the fire, for besides his two wives and other members of his family, some men from the neighbourhood had joined the party. They appeared to speak with great volubility, but the tone and manner of address was so entirely novel, now a rapid monotonous intonation, now a single word dwelt upon, with a lengthened drawl, and immediately succeeded by as rapid a sentence, that for some time I concluded that they were repeating in turn a string of blank verses, until by its continuance it became so exceedingly ludicrous, that it required a considerable effort to refrain from laughter.

During the conversation of the preceding night, some little progress appeared to have been made towards the accomplishment of my object in visiting this tribe. Corbalan was informed of my desire to acquire his language, in order that I might impart to his people the knowledge of the true God, as also of my wish to obtain his consent to bring my family and reside in his immediate neighbourhood. Such a purpose seemed altogether strange to his ears; still he made no objection, and after some further explanation, he seemed to enter cordially into it, and as he himself spoke Spanish,

it was agreed that he should teach me his own language, while I in return should instruct him in the word of God. On being asked whether he would like to see the book to which I alluded, and wherein God had taught us respecting himself, and the way to heaven, he said, 'Yes, that it was good, and he should be glad.' Some inquiries were then made as to his ideas of the condition of the soul after the death of the body; and he acknowledged that they were in ignorance on this point, some thinking that it lived in another world, while others supposed that it ceased to exist.

An order had been sent overnight to the neighbouring chiefs, to assemble as many of their people as were on the spot, in order to welcome my arrival; and as soon as we were mounted in the morning, Corbalan led us to the group, which were collected under the trees at a short distance from his house. As we approached they mounted their horses and advanced towards us; some few were on foot, but all in turn came up, and took our hands, exclaiming, 'murry, murry,' the usual salutation, which is returned by repeating the same words. Corbalan apologized for the smallness of the party, which amounted to forty-five men, saying that the greater part of his people were absent in the mountains, collecting pinones; among these however were five inferior chiefs, two

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of whom in passing, presented me with a boiled fowl, which, till then, had been concealed under their ponchos. Where to bestow this unexpected token of friendship in my case was rather puzzling; the interpreter, however, at once relieved me of my dilemma, by depositing them in his saddle-bag. A small present had already been prepared, and as this was evidently the time for producing it, some coloured cotton handkerchiefs, and a few brass buttons were distributed among the chiefs; that intended for Corbalan having been presented on the preceding night, to which some indigo and beads were added. We then took our leave, Corbalan having previously agreed to shew me some of the inhabited spots in the neighbourhood, as I was anxious to obtain some idea of the amount of population in this district; as also to select a spot for my future residence.

In every direction the country was beautiful, but without possessing any bold or romantic features, excepting now and then, from some of the highest points, a distant peep of the snowy Cordillera. But the grass was rich, the surface undulating, and the trees, in clumps and groves, were so ornamentally scattered, and discovered through their openings so many park-like vistas, that I felt myself no longer a stranger, the whole scenery being so exactly similar to many parts of England,

that it was only when I recognized the flowing poncho and long streaming hair of my companion that the illusion was broken.

Two clusters of houses, in all not exceeding ten or eleven, were visited in this side, all apparently as neat, though none quite so large as the chief's. Around all were small patches of cultivation, consisting chiefly of wheat, barley, and beans. Several wild strawberries were growing, of good size and flavour, but these are not peculiar to the Indian territory. On our return I selected a spot suitable for a mission-house, within a short distance of the chief's residence, but I had no sooner pointed it out to him, when it became evident that his mind on this point had undergone a considerable change, nor did he long disguise his sentiments, but plainly acknowledged that, notwithstanding what he had before said, he must withdraw his consent. The reasons which he assigned for this unexpected refusal were in all probability the result of a conference with the chiefs this morning, and appeared sufficiently weighty. Although still desirous that I should remain, he said that it would not be safe;—the Williches, his neighbours, a large and warlike tribe, would be offended; they would not permit a foreigner to live so near them; as soon as they heard it they would attack him, and he should not be able to resist them. The

result, he said, would be that both himself and his tribe, which could not muster more than one hundred fighting men, would be destroyed. These arguments however were not conclusive, since it remained to be proved, by a personal application, whether the Williche chiefs would act in the way that was suspected; although it must be granted, from all the information which I have since obtained of these people, that there is too much reason to believe that his worst apprehensions would have been realized. Many considerations determined me not to prosecute my inquiries further in this direction, by endeavouring at once to obtain the sanction of the Williche chiefs.

From their known suspicion of foreigners, should they grant permission at all, it would doubtless be shackled with the express condition of residing among them, which would greatly add to the expense and inconvenience of a missionary establishment, from the distance to which it must be removed from communications with Chili, and especially from Concepcion. The nearest point at which any of their influential chiefs were said to reside, was distant from Piligen two days on horseback; probably from fifty to sixty miles. It was also highly important, before entering into any positive engagement, even should such an arrangement be practicable, previously to ascertain the

relative advantages of the Indian territory in the neighbourhood of Arauco south of Concepcion, which is less difficult of access than Piligen, and far more advantageously situated than any of the districts referred to.

With this intention, therefore, I took leave of Corbalan, and soon lost sight of a spot which I shall ever remember with deep interest, and not without an earnest desire that the time may not be far distant when the dayspring from on high may visit this people, and the scattered hamlets of their secluded woodlands shall resound with grateful songs for redeeming love!

A shower of rain, and the lateness of the evening had yesterday concealed one of the most beautiful features of this part of the country, but as it lay immediately in our way, I was glad of an opportunity of visiting it on our return to San Carlos. The pathway at a short distance from Piligen leads abruptly to the edge of a perpendicular cliff, enclosing, in a horse-shoe form, a narrow ravine so thickly covered with high trees, that they conceal the streamlet which winds among their roots, growing even upon the mural crags to the very margin of the spot on which we stood. Across our path, which led over a rocky surface, a small rivulet was gliding, but little did I suspect that at a few yards distance, this apparently small

body of water could have given such a peculiar character and charm to this singular glen. Unbroken during a fall of nearly two hundred feet, it was seen pouring itself out by five distinct chutes, which beautifully contrasted with the dark foliage of the trees which occupied the entire chasm, and even prevented the mist from rising at the spot where its plash was distinctly heard, but could not be traced with the eye.

On our return to the Biobio we crossed in the same manner as before, having previously towed the balsa higher up, in order that the current might not carry us below the proper landing-place on the opposite side. In this passage we were literally propelled by two-horse power, for in addition to the trusty animal who was gallantly towing us ahead, my other horse, who had shown some reluctance to cross, was held by a lasso, but, before we had performed half the passage, he seemed so desirous to rival his companion, that he contributed much to our speed. From Los Angeles, which we reached the same evening, there is a good view of the volcano of Antuco, but although it is still active and sometimes emits flame, the smoke only is discovered from thence. What is called the 'Fuerte' at this place is a range of low barracks intrenched within a rectangular parapet, but the latter is so dilapidated, and

the ditch so choked with weeds, that at present it is scarcely more than a barrier from the inroads of cattle, while the tottering sentry-boxes that crown the angles are only fit for fire-wood. For some years the usual garrison consisted of about two thousand men, sometimes more, but at present it does not exceed four hundred; the remainder having been withdrawn for the service of the present contest with Peru.

At San Carlos there is a detachment of thirty-five men, and two field pieces, both in a miserable condition, with another small party at Santa Barbara, a post of observation a few miles higher up the river.

My subsequent journey to Concepcion, where I arrived on the 13th, was a most unpleasant one, on account of the rain, which continued, with little intermission, throughout. The river Laxa was so much swollen that a balsa was employed, and my horse was again in requisition, but the roads, never good, had now become so exceedingly slippery, that with all our caution, both our horses fell with us, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they could be kept upon their legs.

On Monday the 17th, I commenced my projected journey to Arauco, having procured a guide who led our spare horse, lightly packed. They were embarked with us in the ferry-boat, which is

large, but as the Biobio is in this part about a mile and three-quarters wide, and the current is strong, half an hour was occupied in the passage. The water is so shallow that for more than two thirds of the distance we were pushed along by poles, after which, as the channel became deeper on the other side, an oar was employed. We disembarked at the small village of San Pablo, immediately opposite to Concepcion, and thence continued along the low land between the river and a parallel ridge of wooded hills for about thirteen or fourteen miles, passing through groves of trees and underwood, among which are several good cattle farms. At this point the road takes the direction of the coast wherever it is practicable, but as it is indented by several small bays, divided from each other by high rocky ridges jutting far out into the sea, we had many difficult ascents and descents to encounter as we passed in succession from one sandy beach to another. But though tedious and slippery, as all these acclivities proved, they were delightfully shady, and afforded through the openings among the high trees which thickly covered them to the water's edge, so many and such varied views of the windings of the coast, with the white surf dashing on the beach, and the island of Santa Maria far in the horizon, that I had little to regret in the detention they occasioned. The view

on descending into Colcura Bay, once a place of some importance, but where the site of its former fort alone is distinguishable, is very beautiful. Two vessels were at anchor, lading with timber and plank, and near the beach are a few straggling ranchos. At a solitary farm-house in the next bay (Quivilinco) I was hospitably received for the night, by the proprietor, Dn. Xavier Sante Maria, who had only just arrived from Concepcion.

At our breakfast the next morning a circumstance occurred, which, although trifling, is rather too amusing to omit. My host who resides at Concepcion, and only occasionally visits this secluded spot, had brought out with him the necessary supplies of grocery, &c. which on his arrival were consigned to the care of a peon who acted in the capacity of cook, &c.; from these deposits, using his best judgment and discretion, two cups of what was supposed to be tea were prepared, and placed smoking before us. The milk was added, and Dn. Xavier had already commenced the repast, when, to his utter dismay, it was discovered to be a decoction of tobacco! Happily I escaped the process by which this fact was established, but ludicrous as it was, the mistake was not so extraordinary as might be imagined. Two packages, one containing powdered tobacco, the other tea, had been ordered; but unfortunately, the former only

had been put up, which the unsuspecting peon, sent expressly for the tea, and seeing no other, naturally made use of. It must however be granted that his olfactory sense could not have been of the very keenest order.

A drizzling rain had rendered the road still worse than on the preceding day, which occasioned my horse to fall on descending the rugged slope of the headland which divides Quivilinco Bay from the low land which extends from its base to Arauco, where, after crossing two rivers, we arrived about noon; the distance from Concepcion is thirty-six miles. At the Carampangue, the last of these rivers, three small balsas are kept, two of which were employed in conveying us across, and afterwards each horse separately, as they were not swam; the balsas were pushed along by poles.

On presenting myself to Major Luengo, the commandant, he kindly received me into his house, and provided forage for my horses. But for the continuance of the rain, I should have endeavoured to have proceeded; the roads however, beyond Arauco, were represented as even worse than those I had just passed, and now far too slippery to attempt.

In the course of the evening, however, I obtained from Major Luengo such information respecting this district and the Indians beyond, as made it

appear no longer desirable that I should prosecute my journey in this direction. It was in substance this.—M. Gay, a French naturalist, who for some time had been collecting materials for a work on Chili, had within a very few days since been endeavouring to penetrate the Indian territory by the very route I was contemplating; in this however, although supported by the whole influence of the Chilian government, he had been foiled; the Indians peremptorily refusing to allow him a passage through their country, and obliging him to retrace his steps without having been able to proceed beyond Tucapel, a distance of sixty miles from Arauco. Until reaching the river Leubu (about forty-two miles south of Arauco) there is a mixed population of Chilenos and Indians. This stream is now regarded as the actual frontier of the maritime districts held by the independent Indians, but it is not until reaching the neighbourhood of Tucapel, eighteen miles further south, that they are to be met with in any numbers. During the dominion of the old Spaniards, a mission was founded at Tucapel, which was destroyed by the Indians who gained some temporary successes in 1821 and 1822, when led on to the invasion of Chili by the brigand Benivides. It is now in contemplation to rebuild the monastery and revive the mission, an official communication having

recently been received by Major Luengo on the subject from the Intendenta of Concepcion. Much of the information which I had already received respecting Valdivia, was confirmed, and the facilities of communicating with the Indians from that quarter, were represented as far greater than those which existed on this frontier. Had I been prompted by mere curiosity, I should, notwithstanding, have continued my route to Tucapel, but on a deliberate review of the whole circumstances, now distinctly before me, taken in connexion with the superior facilities which all agreed were to be met with in the province of Valdivia, my mind seemed entirely directed to that quarter. Had the way been ever so open to the southward of Arauco, the very circumstance of its being in contemplation to renew the mission at Tucapel, which is the key to that part of the country, was a sufficient indication that it would be the very height of imprudence to attempt to plant a Protestant institution in that immediate neighbourhood. On this side, the door seemed altogether closed, and there appeared but little prospect of better success, humanly speaking, should I again retrace my steps to Piligen, while actual experience could alone verify the more favourable accounts received of Valdivia. To proceed there by land was altogether out of the question, and

although a passage might not be easily obtained by sea, the importance of making some attempts from that quarter was more than ever apparent. Our duty was clearly to go forward, using every prudent means, and leaving to Him, on whose strength and wisdom alone we rely, to give or withhold that success to our endeavours which we so ardently desire. With such feelings I took my leave of the hospitable Major and his family, and early on the following morning set out on my return to Concepcion, which, after a hard day's ride through continued showers, I reached on the same evening.

As a military position, Arauco is perhaps one of the worst that could have been selected; but its very defects, to an European eye, have raised it to a place of some importance. It stands in a complete nook, hemmed in on one side by the sea, and on another by a steep rocky hill which meets the beach at right angles, and commands the whole place within musket-shot. On these two sides, however, it is inaccessible to cavalry, and this is precisely the force it is designed to oppose. Until the late earthquake ruined the parapet, it was a respectable work with two bastions, but is now much dilapidated. The village (which is inclosed by the lines) consists, with the exception of that occupied by the commandant, entirely of ranchos,

and the whole place appeared in a dirty and wretched condition.

Every arrangement was now made for our removal to Valdivia, but it was long before a passage could be secured, and this was only effected at last by chartering a small vessel expressly for the purpose. Although the charges were proportionably high, we preferred this to the only alternative, of remaining here for an indefinite time; particularly as the season was advancing, and the period of fine weather, so important for travelling, is so very short in the province of Valdivia, that it might be altogether lost by delay.

On Saturday the 29th, we were to have embarked on board the schooner Maria del Carmen, then lying in Talcahuano bay, which is nine miles distant from Concepcion. The baggage had already been sent off in carretas, and the carriage had arrived in which we were to have followed, when reports were brought of some Peruvian cruisers being off the port. All Concepcion was immediately in a bustle; if the accounts were correct there would have been no possibility of our sailing: but what to believe, from the very contradictory statements, it was impossible to decide. Without waiting for further information, I went at once to Talcahuano, where the excitement was at its height. A small fort on the beach, the

only defence in the whole bay, had been ruined by the late earthquake, and was scarcely tenable. A body of militia, however, was collected, in order to defend the place, in conjunction with a detachment of 700 men destined for Peru, but who had been suddenly countermanded and disembarked from the transports. About this time the appearance of three vessels of war working up in the offing, gave additional credit to the accounts alluded to, which had been brought on the preceeding day by an American vessel from Callao, and it was at once concluded that they were hostile, and would endeavour to cut out the two transports in the bay. However, as they approached, the Chilian flag was displayed, and they were soon identified as a part of the national squadron, which, it appeared, had been detached in order to escort the transports to Peru. No sooner was the real character of the vessels of war ascertained than the alarm subsided, and confidence was at once restored; but as there was now no prospect of our sailing until Monday, on my return to Concepcion, a few articles of furniture, including bedding, were hired for the interval, and on that day we proceeded to Talcahuano.

Although situated at the head of a spacious bay, one of the finest in the world, and in every respect admirably adapted for trade, this is but a

village of mean appearance, with scarcely a respectably built store-house: it is however the principal resort of foreigners, among whom are several English, French, and American residents. As we arrived, the last party of the troops were re-embarking, and on the same evening they sailed, under convoy, for their destination. We also embarked, but as the schooner's crew had been secreted on shore, under an apprehension that more seamen would be impressed to assist in navigating the transports, we were unable to proceed to sea until noon on the following day, Jan. 1.

Early on Sunday morning (the 6th) we made the land about the entrance to Valdivia harbour, and at ten o'clock, after a pleasant, but by no means a quick passage, we anchored in the Corral, a beautiful cove on the south side, completely land-locked.

The following morning we disembarked, and after a tedious pull in a launch which was returning to Valdivia, we were landed at the town, situated on the left bank of the river Calla-calla, about sixteen miles from the Corral, which is the usual anchorage. Although the wind was fair across the harbour, we had only a tattered sail, partly composed of the ponchos of the crew pegged together, but whenever this became unserviceable, we had only to depend upon the efforts of our

lazy crew, who allowed us ample time to contemplate the many beautiful reaches of the river as we ascended between its steep and wooded banks.

Few harbours are so well defended by nature and art as that which we had just crossed. No less than four batteries judiciously placed, and partly scarped out of the solid rock, seem to bid defiance to all intruders, but their real value in the hands of unworthy defenders was sufficiently proved in 1819, by the daring enterprise and masterly arrangements of Lord Cochrane, who with a handful of men (not more than 319) surprised and gained them one after the other, although at the time they were in a respectable condition, mounting in all 118 guns, and containing a garrison of 1600 men! They are now almost dismantled.

The ycleped 'city' of Valdivia made no appearance as we approached; it is in fact a poor, dull, shabby village, though covering a great extent; but what it wants in other respects, is abundantly supplied by the utter disregard to uniformity which would ill have accorded with the features of the surrounding country. Happily for the lovers of good taste, neither its founders nor their successors possessed either funds or energy enough to adapt the irregular site to one of their favourite rectangular plans. It is in consequence the most irregularly built and straggling town

which is perhaps to be met with in this portion of South America; but it is strictly in character with the surrounding scenery, which it has the singular merit of not deforming. The houses, built and roofed with wood, are, with the exception of those in the immediate neighbourhood of the square, detached, and so intermixed with trees and gardens, and apple-orchards, among which beautiful peeps of the river are occasionally obtained, that we quite enjoyed the shade and variety of the walks, even in the suburbs.

The apple-tree is here indigenous, and forms immense groves, but we were more struck with the great abundance of that elegant shrub, the tree fuchsia, which was in full blossom and beauty. Unable to procure a suitable lodging on the outskirts of the town, we were obliged to content ourselves with part of an half-furnished house at one corner of the square, where we remained until we removed into the country.

CHAPTER V.

LEAVE VALDIVIA—QUINCHILCA—JOURNEY TO IT—VISITS TO THE INDIANS—RETURN TO VALDIVIA—SAIL FOR VALPARAISO.

FROM the great difficulty of obtaining correct information, even on the spot, respecting the localities of the Indians, it was some time before I could decide on the quarter from whence it was desirable to enter their territory. Either from ignorance or national pride, probably the latter, this *expansive* province was made to include every spot towards which my enquiries were directed, until it would almost appear that no place was left where the original inhabitants could possibly be found in a state of independence; so that it might fairly be inferred that Chili, 'la grande nacion,' was limited only by the ocean and the Cordillera, and exercised undisputed sway from Peru to the very cliffs of Cape Horn. Due allowance being made for all this gasconade, I was not however prepared to find so considerable a tract of country bona fide belonging to the province, having under-

stood that the greater part had been recovered by the hardy tribes from whom it was originally wrested.

Having at length, however, matured the plan which I considered as the best, I left Valdivia on Wednesday, February the 9th. in a small boat hired for the purpose, in company with Don Juan Aguero, the son of a respectable farmer who resided at Antilgue, and who, partly as a friend, (although remunerated for his services) proved himself very useful, from his knowledge of the country, &c.

The particular object of my present trip was to visit Arique and Quinchilca, and thereby decide upon their comparative suitableness as a temporary residence for my family during the time that might be occupied by my subsequent journeys among the Indians. Either would be more centrical than Valdivia, with the advantage of enabling me to keep horses, which would be indispensable, at a lower rate. The width of the Callacalla, which we ascended, is about that of the Thames at Windsor, immediately opposite to Valdivia, where the stream is divided; but its mean width to within a short distance of Arique, when its course is again impeded by islands, is somewhat wider. The influence of the tide extends to some distance beyond Valdivia, but the

current soon began to have the mastery, and increased in rapidity as we advanced. As the ascent on this account is tedious beyond Arique, and I was moreover desirous to present a letter of introduction, received from Don Isidro Bergara, the Intendant of the province, to Don Francisco Aburto (the Commissioner or Guardian of the Indians) who resides at this place, we left our boats and proceeded to his house. Don Francisco, who is an elderly man, and at the time was confined to his bed by indisposition, kindly provided me with a horse; our visit in consequence was short, and we proceeded without delay to Antilgue, and then to Quinchilca, which appeared so eligible a spot for my purpose, that I engaged a part of the only house which had any accommodation for my family, and soon after returned to Antilgue for the night. Notwithstanding the rain, which continued with little intermission during the following day, we retraced our steps to Arique, where the boat was waiting, and late in the same evening reached Valdivia, which is about forty-eight miles from Quinchilca, and twenty-three from Arique.

As the river communications in this province, wherever they are practicable, are always preferable to the roads, and we had much baggage, and some furniture to convey, two of the regular mar-

ket-boats were hired of Don Manuel Aguero, the proprietor of Antilgue, and as every thing had been prepared for our removal, we embarked on board one of them on Tuesday the 15th, but it was not until the morning of the third day that we reached Quinchilca. From Valdivia to Arique, the same character of scenery continues, on either bank rounded hills, covered from their base to their summits with forest-trees and underwood, modified only by narrow strips of lowland, always clothed with luxuriant pasturage, which sometimes margined the stream. With the exception of these envied sites, but few open spots intervened, excepting where the axe had laid bare the forest, and there the orchard, the raucho, and the rustic fence gave additional proofs of the existence of man; but even these tokens of his domain were scarcely to be traced beyond a few miles from the town.

It was dark long before we reached the nearest house at Arique, which was that of the Commissioner's son, more than half a mile from the landing-place, but he had retired to rest, and at first made some difficulty in admitting us; at length, however, as a matter of favour, we were allowed the use of the only tolerable room, where we spread our mattresses upon a boarded floor, which had certainly never been washed since it was laid.

Throughout the forest district of this province, there is generally a difficulty in procuring a sufficient number of pack-horses or mules for transporting baggage. The river in such situations may be regarded as the highway; at convenient distances from its banks, the farm-houses are invariably built, and every proprietor employs one or two boats for the conveyance of his produce to Valdivia, and the supplies he may require on their return. We were in consequence detained a considerable time before the necessary animals could be collected, notwithstanding they had been ordered on my previous journey, and were unable to leave Arique until half-past one in the afternoon; but we had not proceeded more than ten minutes when another detention took place; a narrow but unfordable stream traversed the path, which could only be crossed in a canoe, so that all the packs had again to be removed and ferried over, which occasioned considerable delay.

Passing Antilgue, where we remained for a few minutes, we continued our route, but as it was found quite impossible, on account of the lateness of the hour, and the jaded condition of our sorry animals, to reach Quinchilca that night as we had hoped, we stopped at a raucho belonging to some Indians by the road-side, where, as there was no better accommodation to be met with in the

neighbourhood, we slept. The walls of these houses are substantially built of thick posts set together, with their ends sunk into the ground, but as the interstices are not filled up, and they are rarely or ever planked, it is quite possible to discover all that is doing within them, even from a distance, provided the night is dark, and a good fire is blazing on the floor. Such was actually the case, when we approached at about half-past eight, and as I rode on to reconnoitre, a group of Indians of every size and age, with almost as many dogs were seen, compactly crouching around the flame, which cast a peculiar glare upon their countenances. Desirous, if possible, to find a less crowded apartment, I intimated my intention of seeking another resting-place for the night to the arriero, who immediately quitted the road and entered a grove of trees. Confiding in his knowledge of the country, I naturally concluded that he was threading some by-path, which would soon lead us to another house, but such was not his intention: having conducted us to the shade of a wide-spreading apple-tree, he stopped short, and being asked where was the house, he coolly pointed to the grass, and inquired if that tree would not do. Between these two alternatives, for no other house was near, the election was soon made, nor had we any reason to regret it, for

what was wanting in comfort, was made up by civility. A raised platform of poles and planks, which sufficed for the sleeping-place of the greater part of the family, was given up to our use, on which we spread our mattresses and cloaks; some milk, which was boiling at the time we entered, was soon after offered to us, and although intent upon regarding all our movements from sheer curiosity, the whole family were remarkably quiet and decorous, even refusing any return for their hospitality on the following morning, (which however was not omitted.) During this journey we were favoured with beautiful weather, and enabled to enjoy the forest scenery through which we passed, almost entirely from the time of our leaving Arique, until we reached Quinchilca. The roads are mere tracks worn through the forests, sometimes winding round the larger trees which oppose their course, but more frequently impeded by the fallen trunks of those which, until time and weather have completed their decay, are allowed to remain as mementos of the woodman's prowess, and the stage at which the art of road-making has arrived in this part of the world. Formidable as these barriers might appear, it was surprising to see with what facility they were surmounted, the horses rarely or ever tripping by day, and from habit, even at night, preparing for the accus-

tomed leap at the usual spot. Once a year, parties are employed in what is called road-mending, which consists of hacking down that particular portion of the fallen trunk which lies directly across the pathway, but this labour is only bestowed upon those of the largest diameter, about a fourth of which is thus reduced; the operation never being continued to its entire separation; but even this, which is considered as a great undertaking, contributes much to the relief of a horse during a long journey through these narrow and root-tangled passes. Three tributary streams were crossed in our way to Quinchilca, including that near Arique, but the chief interest was the Calla-calla, always on our left, sometimes sweeping in whirlpools immediately below the steep bank we were treading, at others appearing through vistas in the darkened forest, where the foliage was too thick to admit the direct light from above. These views were greatly heightened by the number of islands in the channel, and the steep cliffs shattered by earthquakes, and crusted with trees which often appeared on the opposite side. From the heights on which Don Francisco Aburto's house is situated at Arique, one of the most striking of these characteristic views is obtained; there is another on approaching Quinchilca, which is equally fine. Neither of these places are, pro-

perly speaking, villages; Arique is the largest and the most cultivated, but they are mere clusters of farm-houses, badly built and widely scattered.

For this country we were tolerably accommodated, having two rooms in a house, prettily situated, belonging to Pablo Patine, from the front of which was an extended view of the wooded valley through which the Calla-calla, about half a mile distant, was forcing its way, as also of the snowy peak of Villa-rica, the smoke of which was sometimes visible with the naked eye.

As we were now within a few hours' ride of the Indian territory, and about forty miles from the lake Rauco, which it was my intention first to visit, I was anxious as soon as possible to procure both a horse and also a guide; but the latter was the chief difficulty, as Sr. Aburto, to whom I had applied for assistance, informed me by note that nothing could be done until the return of his son, who was absent, and that he had no peones about him who were acquainted with the native tongue. Finding, however, a man who was willing to accompany me, and who was sufficiently conversant with the Indian language, he was engaged for the trip; but although it was agreed that we should start soon after daylight on the 22nd, he did not make his appearance until near noon on

that day. With this man, whose name was Pacheco, rather than lose another day, I set out, and continued riding until eight in the evening, when we reached some of the first habitations of the Indians, at one of which we were taken in for the night.

Within the short space of about two hours after leaving Quinchilca the river Calla-calla is crossed no less than six times. The right banks exhibit in some places literally walls of gravel, large fragments having been detached by the late earthquake, carrying with them entire trees, many of which have taken root below, while others are still growing upon the projections which obstructed their further descent. Until approaching the lake, the country in general is level, the road a mere track leading chiefly through woods, although there are some open grounds, especially about Guitre, the last and the largest Chilian farm in this province, where many of them are very extensive. The small river Lumaco divides the estate, which belongs to Donna Mariana Guardia, from the Indian territory. For some distance on either side of this stream there is literally a forest of bamboo, of a particular kind called by the Chilenos, coliu; it grows perfectly straight, throwing out leaves from the joints only, the stem from about one fourth from the ground is nearly bare, but towards the

top the leaves increase in profusion until they form a rich and waving tuft, which supplies the absence of branches. The stems, which are of a bright glossy yellow, and from one to three inches in diameter, are not tuberous but solid, and so extremely hard, though light and elastic, that the Indians make use of them almost exclusively for their spears; the fracture is so sharp, that horses are frequently lamed by treading upon a broken stump. So impervious a jungle is formed by these trees, that until a passage has been cut it is impossible to penetrate, even on foot, and when riding, much caution is requisite to avoid the sharp points of the broken stems which often impede the narrow path. When once entered, the effect is striking, a wall of yellow leafless stems, inclining as they rise, until they unite in a sharp angle overhead, so exactly resembled the cloistered aisles of some gothic building, that I was willing to indulge the illusion as we passed along. The roads throughout all the wooded districts are bad, but here they were especially so, as the high winds, which often penetrate the timber-forests, can find no admittance here, and consequently many parts were more than ankle-deep in water. One of the greatest ornaments of this district, which is found on both sides of the coliu jungle, is a large orange-flowered thistle, which I do not remember to have

seen elsewhere. But my attention was soon drawn to some of the peculiar features of the lake we were approaching, the bold mountains which environ its banks now occasionally appearing through the openings in the forest. Having understood at the house where we had passed the night, that Neggiman, the chief, was absent on a visit to Arique, we continued our route early on the following morning, still passing through a forest of high trees, until we reached another cluster of houses, among which was that of the chief. Some of these houses I entered, but hastened forward to the brow of a rising ground, in order to enjoy a full view of the lake, of which I had only hitherto caught detached glimpses. We were standing on its western border, an extensive sheet of water lay before us, probably about fifty miles in circumference. To the southward, in which direction its waters are conveyed by the [illegible] to the Pacific, the land is comparatively low and bare of trees, but to the northward it is [illegible] in with bold ridges of wooded mountains, while the majestic Cordillera, clothed with snow, appeared to skirt its eastern limit. Eight islands of different sizes, some mere rocks, appeared in the centre, one of them which gives name to the lake, is inhabited, and about two miles in length. With so many remarkable features, all blended

VIEW ON THE LAKE OF LUCERNE.

and heightened by the interchange of wood and water, and the occasional flittings of clouds under a brilliant sky, it would be needless to say that it was beautiful; but there were other and not less interesting objects for contemplation. From the same spot the scattered houses of Vutronway, (the name of this Indian village,) with their several patches of cultivation, although half embosomed in copses and indigenous apple-groves, were visible, the abodes of accountable human beings, but unto whom as yet the saving truths of the uncorrupted gospel had not been made known! All without, every object that met the eye seemed to "speak its great Creator's praise," but he, for whose enjoyment all these beauties were arrayed, had not yet learned to raise one song of thanksgiving to Him who crowneth the year with his goodness. In the earnest hope that it might please the Lord to permit us to enter upon some work for his glory in this place, I first made application to the chief's eldest son, and afterwards entered into a conditional agreement with a native, called Calfupang, who resided at the very foot of the knoll, which commanded the view I have described, to let his house to me, until a more suitable one could be erected. Neither this man nor the chief's son were able to give me a definitive answer; but merely signified their entire concurrence, provided

I obtained the sanction of the absent chief. Desirous to obtain an interview as soon as possible with Neggiman, I returned on the same day to Quinchilca, which I reached at about four o'clock in the afternoon. Fully expecting to have more leisure on a subsequent visit, but a very hasty and imperfect sketch was made of the lake, still, as it is the only one in my possession, and may convey a tolerably correct idea of its general character, although without any pretension to great exactness, it is here given.

On the following day, Thursday the 24th, I set out for Arique, but before reaching Antilque, met Neggiman on his return, whom from his particular bearing I at once addressed as the chief I was in search of. My conjecture was confirmed by himself; but as he could only speak a few words of Spanish, and I was alone, we paused awhile, and the woods was made to echo with shouts and whistles, until one of their party, who was behind, gallopped up and performed the office of interpreter. My object in desiring to reside at Vutronway was then plainly stated, to which he made no objection, but on being informed of my recent visit to his village, he expressed some surprise that I should have gone unaccompanied by any person deputed by Don Francisco Aburto.

After some further conversation, he said that

although he had never permitted a stranger to reside among his people, still he would not withhold his consent, provided I made him a present, which he specified, (one pound of indigo and a bar of salt) and come accompanied by a messenger from Don Francisco, with an assurance of his concurrence in the arrangement.

Thankful for this apparent success, I rode to Antilque, hired a fresh horse, and proceeded to Arique. Don Francisco apologised for not having yet sent me a guide, offering the same excuse as before, but finding that I was not willing to accept it, and was still bent upon revisiting the lake, he procured one, as it would appear without much difficulty, who was to be in readiness to accompany me from Quinchilca on the following Monday.

On my return through Antilque, arrangements were made with Don Manuel Aguero to provide the necessary animals for transporting the baggage to Vutronway, and late in the same evening I reached Quinchilca.

Early on the Monday the 28th, the baggage, including our bedding, &c. was despatched, in charge of Don Juan Aguero and the messenger from Arique, we ourselves intending to follow as soon as the horses which Pacheco (my former guide) had undertaken to provide, should arrive. In this state of suspense we waited until it was too

late to set out on that day; as it was, however, absolutely necessary that the messenger from Arique should not reach Vutronway before me, and nothing was heard of Pacheco or the expected horses, I hired an Indian labourer belonging to our landlord, as a guide, and early on the following day set off again for the lake. At a few miles beyond Guitre, we overtook the baggage, and taking on Santiago (the Arique messenger) I pushed forward to Vutronway, reaching the chief's house at six in the evening. He soon came out, and after the usual salutation, 'Murry, murry,' Santiago delivered his message, with which he seemed satisfied. I then informed him that on account of the precarious state of the weather, I had at once sent on my baggage, being desirous to settle my family before the roads should be rendered impassable by rain, and requested that he would acquaint Calfupang with his consent to my occupation of his house. He inquired if I had forgotten the present, and on being informed that it would arrive with the baggage still on the road, he not only expressed his entire consent to my remaining at Vutronway, but at my request took some pains to find out a suitable person who might cook for us, and another who by speaking Spanish might become an interpreter.

My new abode being cleaned out, I occupied

it for the night, and early on the next morning (the 30th) the pack-horses arrived, and all were busily occupied in unlading and bringing in the baggage, among which were some *rasée'd* tables, for in order to pass the forests, it had been found absolutely necessary to cut off their legs. I had already converted one of them, by suspending it from the beams, into a swing table, and put together three bedsteads, in short had arranged every thing for the arrival of my family; and was in the very act of mounting my horse to take leave of the chief on my return to Quinchilca in order to bring them up, when Neggiman, followed by one attendant, was observed slowly approaching the house. Although it was a drizzling rain, he took his seat outside, and then commenced a long conversation with Santiago, after which he turned to me, and enquired how long I thought of remaining at Vutronway. As no limit had been hinted at before, and I was unwilling to name one, I replied I could not say; that it might be twelve moons, or two or three times that period; perhaps more, as I wished to become acquainted with his people, and to learn their language. It was evident from his manner and the nature of this leading question, that he had begun to waver in his determination, a conjecture which was not long left doubtful, as he shortly informed me that he

should limit my stay to one moon. Imagining that some lurking suspicion of my ulterior intention might have prompted this sudden curtailment of his previous sanction, I gave him plainly to understand, that I had not the slightest wish to purchase land, or to acquire it by any other means; that I should always be prepared to leave whenever he thought fit, but at the same time, that it would not be worth my while to bring up my family with the understanding that on the following moon we were to return. He then again reverted to his determination not to permit Spaniards (Chilenos are thus designated by them) to reside among his people, adding that I was moreover a foreigner, 'from another country,' and that he must therefore withhold his consent.

Finding at length after some further conversation, that this determination could not be shaken, and aware that no useful object was likely to be gained by a residence of only one month, which would only have the effect of developing plans which could not be followed out, and thus arraying all the prejudices of the Popish priests against any future attempt which might subsequently be made, without giving time to neutralize them by gaining the confidence of the surrounding chiefs; I again felt the necessity of altogether abandoning, what I could not regard as a legitimate opening, and of

endeavouring if possible to approach the independent Indians from some other quarter. One of the arguments advanced by Neggiman was somewhat curious. M. Gay, who had also paid him a visit when in this part of the country, had, he said, undertaken to doctor some of his people who were sick at the time; but, notwithstanding they had taken all the remedies that were prescribed, very few of them had survived; a circumstance to which he evidently attached much importance, adducing it in order to palliate his suspicion of all foreigners.

Nothing now remained but to repack the furniture, &c, a charge which I consigned to the Arriero and Santiago, and dejected, I own, but not in despair, knowing that the times and the seasons are in His hand who shall yet "have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession," I retraced my steps to Quinchilca, where I arrived on the same afternoon, leaving the baggage to follow.

The next journey which I undertook was in the direction of Osorno, beyond which, I had been led to understand, the natives were living in a state of independence, within a very short distance of the town. With a fresh guide I set out for that place on Friday the 1st of February, and in the dusk of the evening reached Dajllipuli, a

scattered village on the verge of what are termed the plains, where I was fortunate in obtaining quarters in the house of Don Manuel Carasco. We were at this point forty-five miles from Quinchilca, and twenty-seven from Osorno, where I purposed to proceed in the morning. During the nine hours which this journey had occupied, with the single exception of about three miles of open plain, called the Pampas of Rupulli, we were literally traversing thick forests, and that by a path so obstructed by logs and roots, and in many parts so hilly, that I felt quite relieved when we at length emerged from the shade, and breathed the pure air of the 'llanos' (plains) a general name indeed, but which, in this region of forests, is understood as applicable only to that particular district which extends from Dajlipuli considerably beyond Osorno. It is not however so strictly descriptive of its character as is generally the case on the other side of the Cordillera, or even in the more northern parts of Chili; but seems rather to be employed to designate those districts which are very scantily wooded, or entirely bare of trees, irrespective of the irregularities of the surface, from those which are entirely forest. The district we had now reached was by far the finest which I had yet seen in any part of Chili; well watered, moderately waved with rounded hills, with suffi-

cient timber in patches, and covered with excellent grass. During our day's ride, we had scarcely seen five or six houses, while here, as might be expected, the farms were numerous, much land was under cultivation, and both the fences and the houses had a more creditable appearance. That in which I was received for the night, was superior to any I had yet met with in the country districts, but it belonged to one of the wealthiest men in this neighbourhood, who was also governor of the village. During supper, and in the course of the evening, I obtained from Don Manuel Carasco and the other members of his family, the very information which it was the object of this journey to acquire, and of which the following are the most important points.

The whole district, for a considerable distance around Osorno, which was said to be somewhat larger than Valdivia, is better peopled than any other portion of the province; a great proportion of these were Indians, who are intermixed with the Chilenos, acknowledging their laws and holding their lands by the same tenures. Don Manuel himself possessed a farm at some distance to the south of Osorno, and even beyond this, to a considerable distance, a mixed population extended, over which the Chilian government exercised control. In the immediate vicinity of the coast, the

Indian locations were more exclusive, but these were represented as entirely under the influence of the missionaries, who occupied two stations in that district, besides that of Dajllipuli, whose chapel-bell I had heard on approaching the village. All these circumstances had combined to soften the asperity, and allay the jealousy, which a series of wrongs and rapine had fostered between the aborigines and the present possessors of the soil: so that it became proportionably difficult to ascertain the precise limit to which the influence of the Chilian power extended, and where total independence commenced; though in general a sort of neutral ground had obtained for some distance between. He described an extensive and very imperfectly-explored lake (probably the Nahuelhuapi, for he had forgotten the name) at about two days ride from Osorno, at the head of which, from the appearance of smoke, it was supposed that some of the independent tribes were residing; but the greater part of the route to the lake was represented as uninhabited, nor were there any locations on its western shores.

Among the company at supper was a Dane, who spoke both English and Spanish well; an advantage which enabled me to enquire thoroughly into every minute particular which was related. The result of this conversation, under other circumstances,

would but have quickened my desire to hasten forward to Osorno, and thence to take the best measures for reaching the eastern limit of the interesting lake to which allusion had been made; but the original plan of visiting Queule, prior even to Rauco now came so forcibly to my mind, that I was eventually induced to give it the preference. Osorno was yet distant nearly a day's journey, and two or three more would at least be required in order to reach the inhabited districts of the lake beyond; which, including the return, would not occupy less than nine or ten days longer; whereas Queule, which is the nearest location of the independent Indians, might be reached, either from Valdivia or Quinchilca, in two days. But the mere calculation of time and distance was not the only objection to a continuance of my present route; it was to be presumed that, from the number of Popish missions still in operation in this district, a certain influence had been exerted over the minds of the Indians, which would tend greatly to impede any efforts that might be made by those who would endeavour to make the word of God the rule and ground of their instruction, and this was sufficiently evident from the statement of Don Manuel himself, who informed me that all the Indians throughout the districts he had been describing were *christians*, and regarded themselves

as belonging to one or other of the several adjacent chapelries. To visit Queule, prior to following up any very extended examination of the country beyond Osorno, seemed now as necessary in order that I might have the fullest data for making my subsequent arrangements, as a visit to Arauco had appeared, on leaving Piligen. Having satisfied my mind on this point, I rose early on the following morning, and taking leave of this hospitable family, again traversed the forests, and reached Quinchilca in the evening.

There is much to employ the mind, even in the solitudes of these forests; the solemn stillness, the luxuriant growth of the trees, the lofty canopy of foliage which obscures the broad daylight; wherever the sun does penetrate, the prevailing shades of green assume new and beautiful varieties; but more especially when its rays fall upon the graceful and fan-like leaves of a tree, which (from ignorance of its class and name,) I must term the fern-tree. It has a slender stem, rising to about twenty or thirty feet, but its peculiarity consists in the formation of its leaves, each of which, both in size and appearance, exactly resembles that of the common fern. Many of the branches of the largest forest trees were so covered with long pendants of grey and yellowed moss, that their very leaves were concealed, and

they exhibited precisely the same appearance that they would have done, had they, for some time, been submerged in the ocean, which, on returning, had left them covered with a coating of tangled sea-weed.

Many very elegant creepers and parasites were observed; of the former, the most common and striking produces a flower shaped like a barberry, of a bright scarlet, rather tinged with orange: it entwines itself round the largest trunks and branches, but more especially those that are fallen and decaying, which it seems to reanimate, clothing them at once with beauty and verdure. The stem of this elegant plant is of a dark chocolate colour, and exceedingly slender, little thicker than one of the hairs of a horse's tail. Less common, but more beautiful, are the bell-shaped blossoms of a parasite which occasionally adheres to the forks of some of the largest trees: it is called pipino by the Chilinos, and is said to have a powerful effect in allaying head-ache: the petals form a cup about the size of a small wine-glass, and are delicately tinged with pink. The common ferns were gigantic, overtopping the underwood, and often waving over my head as I passed on horseback.

On Monday the 4th, I set out on my way to Queule, crossing the Calla-calla in a boat from

Antilque, to a hamlet on the opposite side, called San Gabriel, where I procured an Indian labourer as a guide to Cruces. After leaving the river, one unbroken forest continued, crossed in two points by the rivers Marful and Inyaquib, until we reached Chunympa on the Rio Cruces, where some cleared ground and patches of cultivation were observed. Swimming my horse at the stern of the canoe in which I was ferried to the opposite bank, I soon reached the village of Cruces, still a military post, although the ruined and dismantled fort is unoccupied; a wretched rancho-looking building serving as the quarters for the piquet, (a sergeant and eight men,) who are now the only garrison of this frontier position.

Having been recommended by the man who put me across, (himself a soldier) to apply for lodging at the house of Sen. Ascension Garcia, who, he described as the richest person in the village, and at whose house strangers of respectability were generally admitted, I had no reason to regret his advice, and on my arrival was received with much civility.

On the following morning, accompanied by a peon in the service of the family as my guide, and having hired a fresh horse of the good lady, I proceeded early on my route, which proved to be as

thickly wooded as any I had yet travelled. About noon, (for my watch had stopped) we crossed the Linia, which is considered as a boundary between the province of Valdivia and the Indian territory. The greater part of the way to this river had been very tedious, not so much on account of the irregularity of the ground and the number of fallen trees and logs, as from the thick jungle of bamboo, (not calise) which overhung the path. To wade through this on horseback, was a service of some danger, and yet from the nature of the ground, which was often swampy, it became impracticable to dismount.

To retain one's hat in its proper position, was hopeless, so that after losing it two or three times, I suspended it to my side, covering my head with a close travelling cap; but this proved but a very insufficient defence against the sharp ends of the bamboos, which here and there had been cut, and which, with all the care that could be taken, frequently struck my head and lacerated my face; besides which, I received a severe blow on the forehead from the trunk of a tree which lay immediately across the way, completely concealed among the tangled foliage which obstructed the passage. In these parts, it is unnecessary to say that our progress was slow, scarcely more than a foot-pace; not a habitation was seen, and wher-

ever a vista was obtained through the thick trees, it only enabled us to trace the length of forest we had threaded, and the extent of that which was yet to be passed. At length, on descending a rugged hill, which rises soon after crossing the Linia, and which we had toiled up with some difficulty, we entered a retired valley, skirted by the sea, into which the river Queule was running, and which on every other side was environed by wooded hills.

The neat cottages of the Indians, scattered without order, the patches of barley and potatoes, in which now appeared the windings of the river, and the distant roar of the surf, at once broke the monotony, and gave a new interest to the scene.

A native from one of the nearest houses conducted us to that of his chief, more in the centre of the valley, who was not within, but soon afterwards made his appearance, having just been bathing in the river. Two low wooden stools, over which some skin horse-rugs were spread, were brought out by the women, and on one of these the chief Wykepang seated himself, after the accustomed 'murry, murry,' had been duly interchanged. He was an elderly man, rather short of stature, of a stout muscular frame, with coarse features, and somewhat blunt in his address. His first enquiries were, as to whence I came, and

where I was going? and he quite laughed at my design of passing forwards to visit some other chiefs beyond. No '*Spaniards*,' he said, were living in these parts, they were not permitted to remain. In the absence of my guide, who was pursuing one of the horses which had strayed, I endeavoured, by the help of a native, who understood Spanish, to obtain his sentiments regarding the particular object which I had in view, enquiring whether he had ever heard of God's book. He expressed his surprise that I should possess it, but seemed quite indifferent as to its contents. Being asked if he would permit a missionary who would instruct him and his people in that book to remain with him? he quickly replied, that he did not want one, enquiring at the same time if I were a missionary. I told him that I greatly desired to teach them God's word, but that it would be necessary first to learn their language, and proposed that he should allow me to visit him again, and to remain with him a sufficient time to acquire it. To this proposition he seemed quite averse, and on the return of my guide began to speak very loudly, asking from what country I came, whither it was not in the neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres, &c. He then informed me that I must return, that he would permit me to remain for the night, but that it would not be safe to stay longer, as the

other chiefs would be angry with him, and make war upon him if he allowed me to go farther.

During this conversation, several other natives were present, and at the conclusion two Indians rode up, and reining in their horses at a respectful distance, one of them commenced a long narration in their usual rapid and breathless manner. The subject was not broken into sentences, but seemed to be spoken as some of the antique manuscripts are written, without a pause or punctuation from beginning to end. In fact it was only to inhale sufficient breath to proceed, that the slightest interval occurred, and then it was drawn in with an effort, and retained, as it were by a loaded valve, until the receiver was again exhausted. Great stress was always laid upon the last word of each clause, and this was always the immediate precursor of a reply from the chief, who commenced in the same half groan, and then as glibly gabbled on while his breath lasted, until another prolonged intonation called forth as ready a rejoinder from the first speaker. For more than ten minutes this singular parley continued, when the chief, being apparently satisfied, gave permission to dismount, and the two men immediately unsaddled and joined the party.

Our supper consisted of cold peas and hot potatoes; a skin was spread on the floor for my

bed-place, and although much disappointed at the feeble prospect of gaining admittance among these suspicious people, I was able to sleep soundly with my saddle as a pillow.

Unwilling to take my final leave, without making some further effort to gain the confidence of this determined chief; before mounting my horse on the following morning, I again inquired what reception I might expect should I revisit Queule. Wykepang contented himself with reminding me that I could not now remain, and even returned to me the present which he had received on the preceding night, saying that it must not be known that a foreigner lodged in his house. With all this profession of more than Chinese exclusiveness, I observed that, while he returned the handkerchiefs with one hand, he still retained in the other some few yards of red ferrit (particularly esteemed by them for head-bands)—this, however, I also took back, in order to prove his sincerity, intending to return it afterwards. It was restored with evident reluctance, and once more displaying the gaudy-coloured cotton handkerchiefs, I asked if he would not accept one of them in return for his hospitality. Eying them with a look of satisfaction, he first selected one, then a second, and at last a third, which he consented to receive, and seemed evidently gratified, when to these, I added

the envied red ferret. Still uncertain as to the exact footing on which I stood, and desirous to obtain some positive assurance of friendship, if not for myself, at least in behalf of others who might hereafter come on the same errand; I inquired as to what reception he would give me, supposing on my next visit it should be found that I had acquired his language. 'Then,' he said, 'you may come without fear,' and although he would not guarantee an equally favourable treatment from the chiefs who resided more in the interior, yet from his manner, and the probability which he expressed of their relaxing from their usual restraints upon strangers under such circumstances, I not only felt that I had gained his mind on this subject, but that it was, humanly speaking, the hinge and turning-point of the whole matter in question. To prolong my present visit was altogether hopeless, accordingly I took my leave of Wykepang and his family, and we retraced our steps by the same tangled and tedious passes to Cruces, the greater part of which I rode alone, as my guide's horse was fagged, so that before his arrival I had left Cruces, and was at length joined by the Indian whom I had left on the opposite side of the river. So much time had been lost in catching my horse, that it was late before I could commence this part of the journey; we were in

consequence benighted, and my Indian companion lost his way in the forest long before we reached the neighbourhood of San Gabriel; still, as the night was fine, and there was no other halting-place, we rode on, to the best of our recollection, in the desired direction, and happily arrived safely, although it was nearly midnight before we reached the house from whence we had started two days before. We were now about seventy-one miles from Queule, and twenty-one from Quinchilca, which I reached before ten o'clock on the following morning.

It was long before I became aware of the real difficulties which beset my path; but short as this visit was, it had an important influence upon my subsequent plans, setting before me in characters which could not be mistaken, the precise nature and magnitude of the obstacles which I had already encountered, and those which would invariably surround me in every effort to enter the Indian territory, at whatever point it might be attempted, until their language had been acquired. To expect the favour and confidence of any of the independent chiefs under my present circumstances —a stranger, unacquainted with their tongue,— appeared to be as vain as it was hopeless; although unwilling to relax in my endeavours, while the least probability of success remained, I now

considered that the time had arrived when other considerations ought to weigh. Much interesting information might indeed result from a continued prosecution of these journeys of inspection (for to this, after all, would their character be limited) but the real object in view would still be as remote as ever. The particular reasons which induced me to seek for employment in some other portion of the heathen world, rather than to commence at once the study of the Indian language, the want of which seemed to be the only human hindrance to commencing a work of Christian instruction among them, will be stated in the following chapter. It will be sufficient here to mention that after considering all the circumstances, and committing our way unto the Lord, we felt that it was no longer our duty to remain in this country.

As we were to move, no time was to be lost—a succession of fine weather had already continued beyond the usual period, and two days of rain would render the forest paths impassable for a family; we accordingly left Quinchilca on Friday the 8th, and spent that night at our hospitable friends at Antilgue, embarking the next day, part of which proved rainy, for Valdivia, where we arrived on the same evening.

A passage was soon afterwards engaged on board

a Chileno brig, called the Valparaiso, laden with plank for that port, and then laying in the Cooral. She was commanded by a Genoese, with a motley crew consisting of Chilenos, French, Spaniards and one Peruvian, so that, with ourselves, there were representatives of no less than six nations on board.

We embarked at sunset on the 23rd, weighed on the same evening, and anchored in Valparaiso bay on the 2nd of March. It was three months from this period before we were enabled to embark for New South Wales, towards the spot to which we looked forward as our next destination; and in the meantime we took up our quarters, partly at Valparaiso and partly at the prettily situated village of Limachi, about twenty-eight miles distant.

CHAPTER VI.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

HAVING in the foregoing chapters concluded the mere narrative of our journeyings in this country, it only remains to embody some few of the memoranda which were purposely omitted by the way, in order that they might be seen in their proper connexion; and then, by some concluding remarks upon the whole, endeavour to awaken in my fellow-christians that active and lively interest for the Indian tribes on the frontier of Chili, which has alone induced me to give publicity to these pages.

Commencing then with the Chilenos, and afterwards passing on to the Indians, a few characteristic sketches is all that I shall attempt; indeed, the paucity of my notes, and my very limited opportunities for observation, would not warrant more.

Since my first acquaintance with Chili, in 1814,

but little progress has been made in the construction of farming implements, which to the present day are as rude and awkward as can well be imagined. Throughout the province of Santiago, the solid cart-wheel formerly in use, is now almost exploded, and a heavy spoke-wheel of much larger diameter is substituted,—but without tiers or any other iron work; wooden pegs being employed to unite the double feloes, which are placed one within the other; but as all still run without washers on the axles, and frequently without grease, the same grating screech is heard as formerly, whenever they are in motion, which is generally audible for a considerable time before they make their appearance. The best description of these carts, which (although equally drawn by oxen,) may by regarded as the family coaches, are closed in with a neatly-thatched tilt, having two small windows in front, one on each side, and a door behind; a few cushions or pillows placed on the floor, completes their equipment, and in this manner families of the greatest respectability move from place to place, the gentlemen of the party always riding. The solid wheel is still met with in other parts of Chili, but in the province of Valdivia, even this is dispensed with, and a sort of sledge, composed of two rough logs, united at one extremity, with a flooring of batons and

raised wattled sides, in profile exactly resembling the case of a box-iron without a top, is in general use, and still termed a 'carreta.' The plough has but one handle, which is merely the extremity of the long beam, upon the opposite end of which the coulter, likewise of wood, is fitted. So awkward is the position of the man that guides this uncouth implement, that I have never passed a field where the operation was in progress, without a feeling of pity for the individual so employed. The usual harrow is nothing more than a large bush cut down entire for the purpose, and yoked to a pair of oxen. In one of the treeless districts in the route between Talca and Chillan, we observed a very singular substitute for a spade, which at first I supposed could only have been made for the amusement of children: it was formed by securing with a hide-lashing the blade-bone of a horse to a pole of about four feet in length, in imitation, no doubt, of an implement for the same purpose, which I afterwards observed among the Indians. Even their weaving apparatus is not superior to that of the aborigines; they still spin their thread by hand without a wheel, and use the very rudest description of loom.

Next to the Arab of the desert, and the Indians of this country, the South American gaucho is perhaps the most renowned for his skill in horse-

manship, and has usually met with his meed of praise from almost every traveller who has witnessed his feats; while the women, to whom the palm is unquestionably due in these equestrian exploits, are seldom noticed. It was quite astonishing to witness their dexterity; either on their own 'sellon,' or sitting sideways on the men's saddles, they are equally adepts. On the former they have little, on the latter no support for the back, notwithstanding which, they contrive to balance themselves, and to gallop along, sometimes on very spirited animals, and not unfrequently with an infant in their arms, with as much unconcern and ease, as though they were seated in a jaunting car.

The birloche, or gig, has been introduced within ten or twelve years, but although they are numerous about Santiago and Valparaiso, they are rarely to be met with in the country districts, excepting when hired for a specific journey. On roads which are in tolerable order, it is a convenient and expeditious mode of travelling, but in the present patchwork condition of springs and harness, added to the carelessness of the drivers, to undertake a long journey in one of them becomes rather a hazardous undertaking. We made but two, merely to Limache and back, but in the first of these, on the application of the whip to

urge the shaft-horse to the top of a steep pitch, he kicked himself completely out of his traces as soon as he had gained the summit, and left us, providentially unhurt, with the shafts resting on the ground. Of such accidents the public papers make no mention, but I have been assured that they are continually occurring, by those who are accustomed to take journeys by them. The general plan is excellent, and with better carriages and stronger harness, they would be admirably adapted for the country; though the South African horse-waggon would certainly be preferable, being more safe, and carrying a much greater quantity of luggage.

When a birloche is ordered, a Birlochero (who may be regarded as the 'conducteur') always accompanies it, providing horses according to the distance, as he takes his own relays with him. One horse is placed in the shafts, another, ridden by a postillion, who drives them both, is hooked by a single trace on his left. The spare horses are driven loosely along by the Birlochero, who every now and then, according to the state of the road, whether heavy or hilly, rides up, and without stopping the carriage, hooks on the horse upon which he rides, to the right side. In this manner, sometimes by two, and often by three horses, the steepest hills are soon surmounted, and great dis-

tances are performed in the day. The journey from Valparaiso to Santiago, (about ninety-five miles) occupies a day and a half, although many parts are very hilly: the usual charge is from one ounce to one and a half, viz. from £3. 7*s.* 6*d.* to £5.—which in this country is a large sum.

It is surprising to observe how little the resources of these southern, which are the finest provinces of Chili, have been developed, the true origin of which can only be traced to the unfortunate selection of Santiago as its capital. Had the sums which have been expended in raising the obscure village of Valparaiso to its present importance, been devoted to the improvement of the ports of Talcohuano, or even Valdivia, where there are excellent harbours, equal to any in the world, the advantage to commerce generally, and to Chili in particular, would long since have been apparent. The former is the usual winter resort of the whalers, who, while at anchor, employ their boats-crews in spearing the whales which often appear off the entrance of the bay: while at that season, when northerly gales are prevalent, frequent losses are sustained by vessels at Valparaiso, which affords no shelter from their winds. Coal is found in the neighbourhood of Concepcion, but although it is said to be of a slaty quality, it is probable

that, by working deeper, it might prove to be more valuable.

Perhaps there are no people, not even excepting the Dutch, who so pertinaciously adhere to national customs, as the Spaniards, and their descendants in this country. Precisely the same description of house prevails from Lima to Concepcion, modified of course, as to size and architectural ornament, by the taste and station of its possessor. Still, among those inhabited by the higher classes, are invariably to be found the outer and the inner court, round which the several suits of rooms are always arranged. The plan is unquestionably good in a genial climate, but no allowance is made for the great change which, in a range of from fourteen to fifteen degrees of latitude, must necessarily take place. Hence the 'brasiero' of charcoal, (the only means resorted to for warmth in northern Chili) is alone employed for the same purpose in Concepcion, and what is still more surprising, at Valdivia itself; so that, when driven by circumstances to seek shelter in an Indian house, or a Chileno rancho, where a blazing log-fire is generally to be found on the floor, I have, on such occasions, invariably found myself more comfortably warm than in the more substantial houses of Concepcion, where, notwithstanding the prevailing humidity of the climate,

and the abundance of timber, the floors are laid with bricks without mortar. With regard to these floors, or perhaps more correctly the soil on which they are laid, there is a peculiarity of which it is not possible to remain any time in this country without being sensible, to a degree which is scarcely credible. From the moment a house is unoccupied, or the operation of sprinkling with water and scrubbing is discontinued, hundreds and thousands of fleas make their way through the interstices of the bricks, so that in the short space of a few days, they may be swept away by handsfull. Some ludicrous, though painful instances, I could relate, but one or two will be sufficient. While searching at Concepcion for a lodging, I entered, with the landlord, an unfurnished house, which had been unoccupied for some time; passed into two rooms, and crossed the inner 'pateo.' On returning to the entrance, I made some enquiry of the landlord as to the terms, but although at the time he was standing near, no answer was returned for some hours afterwards; perceiving the rising myriads, which had already covered his ankles, and were fast ascending to all parts of his person, he abruptly closed the door, and without further ceremony, made off at full speed to his own house. There was little room for conjecture on my part as to the occasion of his sudden dis-

appearance, as, literally in self-defence, I had only to follow his example. A case very similar afterwards occurred at Valparaiso, but in this instance no other house could be procured, and in two days it was to be occupied! Various were the remedies recommended by the Chilenos. Some proposed driving a flock of sheep through the apartments, others recommended large libations of salt and water, which last was adopted, though not without previously using a quantity of boiling water, which I consider as by far the most effectual. By keeping two men constantly employed for some hours in bringing sea-water from the beach, the rooms were tolerably purified, and we were afterwards as free from annoyance of this kind, as could be expected, in a country where the habits of all classes, both high and low, are the reverse from cleanly.

While speaking of houses, it may be as well to mention the admitted fact, that during the destructive earthquake of 1835, not one of the ranchos were thrown down, and but few of the wooden houses were much injured. So great is the elasticity of the former, each part being interlaced and combined with the other, that they were comparatively uninjured. The same difference was apparent, and in a more striking degree, with respect to the still more strongly-built houses of

Valdivia, which have all endured the shock, while every stone or brick building (two martello towers alone excepted) was reduced to ruins. With the exception of the log-houses of Canada, they are the strongest I have yet seen, but the workmanship is exceedingly rude, the sides being formed by sinking the ends of a number of squared posts, set closely together, into the ground. The roofs in the country are generally thatched, but in Valdivia, a very large description of shingle, about five feet long and proportionably broad, is usually adopted. In that province the flooring is always of wood; but each plank, which is laid without sleepers upon the solid ground, is from three to three and a half inches in thickness, dubbed out with the adze, the use of the saw being as yet very limited. So little attention is paid to the seasoning of building-timber in that part of Chili, that in a very few months after a house is completed, the planks and beams begin to shrink, and as a natural consequence, large gaps appear in the flooring and sides, admitting daylight in all directions. With the experience which they have now acquired, and which has been so dearly bought, it might be supposed that none but wooden houses would in future be erected in those districts where the devastations from earthquake have been the most severe; but as has been already remarked,

such is by no means the case, although the temporary churches are all of that material.

It would appear that the peculiar form of the Martello tower is the best adapted for enduring heavy shocks of earthquake. The only two which were built by the old Spaniards, on the outskirts of Valdivia, in order to defend their new settlement from the Indians, still remain entire, while other buildings of equally substantial materials (stone and mortar) have been thrown down; clearly shewing their superiority over every other form. The gradual thickening of the walls, and the increased diameter of the building towards the base, combined with the power of resistance communicated by the circular figure, are calculated to impart a degree of stability which no other construction could possess in so great a degree, and the very circumstance of their being still erect is a sufficient proof of the important advantages which they combine, so that it is surprising that similar towers have not been adopted by the Chilians, if not for more general purposes, at least in the defence of their sea-ports.

In all the country districts, and indeed generally throughout Chili, although 'mate' is sipped almost as soon as they are awake in the morning, but two regular meals are taken, answering to our breakfast and supper; the first at about eleven

o'clock in the forenoon, the other about nine in the evening, at both of which stewed meats and vegetables are served up. In the very first society at Santiago, Valparaiso, and perhaps one or two other places, some degree of style and refinement does indeed obtain; nor would I by any means wish to underrate this, by drawing a caricature; much less that the following particulars, which were noted at the time, should be too generally applied; they may however serve as a tolerable criterion of the state of society in the country districts. The supper scene at Arauco, where it will be remembered, I was kindly received into the house of the Commandant, Major Luengo, and where there were several other guests besides myself, will perhaps give as good an idea of Chilian manners as I could adduce. It will not be necessary to describe the disorder of the talk, suffice it to say that meat, to the full proportion of all our necessities, was served up grilled and stewed, as also a plentiful supply of vegetables.

By a ponchoed servant, with dirty hands, each in succession was placed before us, but although the viands were sufficient, it was the very reverse with respect to the *materiel* with which we were each provided for the repast. Our plate was most amicably shared by two of the company, while each, as he required, extended his fork or his

spoon into the centre dish, and abstracted as much for his own private use as he thought convenient. So entirely was it admitted that fingers were better adapted for the purpose than either, that they were in frequent requisition, not merely for the purpose of what is popularly termed picking a bone, but actually employed in taking whole ribs of mutton from the dish. Two glass tumblers filled with 'mosto' (a wine in great repute, the produce of the province of Concepcion) were introduced about the middle of the feast, and these were passed from lip to lip until their contents were exhausted. A fresh supply was then called for, and in the same elegant manner they were again emptied. A mound of broad beans, which I had nearly forgotten, was reduced in as extraordinary a manner. One lady, who was sitting on my left, thrust in her two-pronged fork at a venture, and then *gracefully* withdrew it with a cluster of large beans strung upon its points. This delicate morsel was but the precursor of many more, which she successively conveyed to her mouth. There were not wanting other imitators of my fair neighbour, who by the unstudied exhibition of their various vulgarities, would have put many an English scullery-maid to the blush.

While at Yumbel, on my way to Los Angeles, I was lodged in the house of one of the most res-

pectable inhabitants of the village; besides the family were one or two other guests, including the curè of one of the churches at Concepcion, then on a journey to collect contributions for ecclesiastical purposes. All, however, sat around a low table, ate without plates from the dish, and drank out of one tumbler: while the beans were literally taken up with their fingers.

At Donna Ascension Garcia's, where I was also hospitably received on my way to Queule, as little refinement was manifested. Two plates were thought sufficient for a party of four, one lady having previously retired, but even these were seldom employed, the more direct method of conveying the meat at once from the dish to the mouth being generally preferred. Such facts as these, on which I shall make no further comment, may however be sufficient to moderate the expectations of our enterprising Spodes, and Wedgewoods, and Mortlocks, and convince them that, as yet, the great mass of the Chilian population are not prepared to contribute very largely to the increase of their well-earned profits.

The art of medicine, it is well known, is very imperfectly understood in South America; foreign practioners being the only medical men of any repute throughout the country; still, as may be imagined, notwithstanding much quackery among

the native doctors, the use and properties of many valuable herbs and roots, unknown to European practice, have not only been discovered by them, but beneficially employed. There is a remedy however, of another class which is somewhat singular. In this part of South America there is a race of hairless dogs, called, from this circumstance, 'despelado,' (without hair) the skin of which is of a bluish slate colour, sometimes approaching to black. The general heat of their bodies, probably more perceptible from their being without hair, is great, and it is on this account that they are employed in cases of consumption, or 'calentura,' as it is termed. The feet of the patient are placed upon the dog's back, who thus performs the office of foot-warmer; and by this strange but simple remedy, probably in combination with some other, it is asserted, that many have recovered. When this is the case, we are also informed that the dog invariably dies; a result which I am inclined to think is even more questionable than the alleged remedy. Some slight mention has already been made as to the police of Chili; but, however this surveillance may be requisite in a country so frequently embroiled in revolutionary movements, there is a point in their jurisprudence which appears, not only to work well, but to be worthy of imitation in other coun-

tries similarly situated. It is the appointment of a class of local arbiters, called 'Jueces conciliadores,' who are authorised to decide, according to the best of their judgment, on all cases of difference or complaint, where the amount of loss or damages to be recovered does not exceed, I think, twenty dollars. There is of course always an appeal from their decision to the Courts of Judicature, but in by far the greater number of instances, it is regarded as conclusive, particularly as these conciliatory judges are selected from among the most respectable of the inhabitants of their respective districts. An instance or two I can give. On reaching Santiago, the Arriero who had broken his engagement with me by not supplying the necessary number of peones, was dissatisfied at being offered less than the stipulated sum, and cited me before one of these judges, the Alcalde of that quarter of the city, who in a very few minutes decided in my favour, on which the disappointed Arriero took his departure without a murmur. When residing at Limache, near Valparaiso, two or three articles of linen had unquestionably been stolen by the washerwoman we employed. I declined paying her any thing until these were restored; but thinking to gain her point by threatening an appeal to the judge, she at length referred the case to his arbitration, when after explaining

the circumstance in her presence, a deduction was immediately made in my favour, equivalent to the supposed value of the articles stolen. These two are the only instances in which I was compelled to seek redress; no fee was required from either party; witnesses indeed were called, but in a very few minutes the whole was settled. The advantage of such an authorised appeal is great, not merely lessening the expenses of law, but tending directly to check litigation, to accommodate differences, and to preserve harmony and good order throughout the community.

But after all, Chili is a strange compound, ostensibly republican, but in many instances most rigorously despotic, as is strikingly apparent in the peremptory regulations for their public rejoicings, respecting which the government not only prescribes the day and the manner in which it shall be employed, but does not recognize in any of her subjects, or even in foreigners, a right to dispute this interference, or the slightest option to decline conformity with the orders they may think proper to issue on the subject. For instance, when the account of the battle of Yungai, and the abdication of Santa Cruz arrived from Peru, a general order was given for flags to be exhibited by day, and an illumination to take place at night. At that time we were residing in a hired house at

Valparaiso; and having no bunting to display, it was not long before I received a visit, first from a policeman, and afterwards from an officer of his corps, to make inquiries respecting the cause of my nonconformity. Both were civil, and the latter, after due explanation, waved the point and admitted my excuse, which was simply this: a tenant waiting for a passage, with only a few articles of hired furniture, and unprovided with a flag by his landlord. But a night or two before this, our cook, who was a Chilian, came in with an air of much concern, to inform me that all the street was illuminated, and that unless I exhibited some candles also, I should be fined four dollars. Thinking it the very height of absurdity, even to affect gladness, while in total ignorance of that which had caused our neighbours to rejoice, I desired her to inquire of them on what account they had illuminated, and whether any important news had been received. After a short absence she returned with a vacant look, and the long drawn 'quien sabe' on her lips, both sufficiently expressive, not only of her own ignorance, but also of that of all the immediate neighbourhood, who nevertheless had, according to prescription, as good subjects, decorated the roofs and walls of their houses with rows of tallow candles.

Education in this country is certainly advancing,

but although schools, dignified by the appellation of 'colegios,' are to be found in every large town, and there are other minor ones in every district, still little is taught besides reading, writing, and cyphering. Few of the common labourers can read, although many of their children are now taught in the schools; but among the tradesmen and mechanics of all classes, such elementary knowledge as has been alluded to, is becoming very general. The press, though nominally free, is nevertheless subject to the censorship of a certain number of commissioners, who hold their sittings at Santiago, and of whom the bishop of that diocese is the president. All books, whether published in the country or imported, are subject to the scrutiny of this board, which has the power of awarding severe penalties. Notwithstanding the vigilance of the priests, and the influence which they exert in preventing, what the civil law does not declare to be illegal,—the circulation of the scriptures,—there is every reason to believe that, with judgment and caution, the Bible might be distributed in many parts of this country.

Not long since, an article on 'the present state and progress of literature generally through Chili appeared, in the 'Araucano,' a paper published weekly at Santiago, under date of Feb. 8, of the present year, which, considering the strict cen-

sorship to which it is subjected, is remarkable, and too important to be omitted,—I shall therefore give a literal translation of some of the concluding passages. Alluding to the number of books imported, the editor remarks—'A considerable part is composed of obsolete devotional books, and others written with little merit, works more suited to foster a worn-out superstition, than to nourish piety with the substantial food of evangelical doctrine. Among these, Bibles are scarce, notwithstanding the Spanish language possesses the admirable translations of Scio and Amat, which for scrupulous fidelity, sober simplicity, and pureness of language, compete with the best which any of the other nations of Europe can produce of a similar kind. But without going out of this department, that which will the most astonish those who have attended the catholic congregations of England, France, and Germany, is, the want of that particular class of religious works, in which are translated into the vernacular tongue the church prayers and psalms, so that the faithful can understand and join their prayers and supplications to those of the church, when they assist in the religious solemnities. We say, that those who have visited other catholic congregations, would be much surprised at such a defect, and we ought to add, that it will not enable them to form

a right conception of the spirit which animates ours; for, in truth, what is bodily attendance, without the communion of the thoughts and affections, which is the soul of public worship? The passages of scripture, which form part of divine worship, have been carefully selected for the instruction and edification of the Christian auditory, and will it not be a culpable presumption to substitute any thing else in its place, however excellent it may appear. Or shall we believe that the intentions of the church can be fulfilled, when the impressions which she has wished to produce in the soul do not reach beyond the ears, and perhaps not even there.'

Would that such sentiments were now general, until not only devotional books, but The Book from whence all true devotion must take its source—the Holy Scriptures, in the vernacular tongue, shall be in every hand, and read and regarded as the word of God—the test and touchstone of all other books. Then, and not till then, may we hope to see the temple purified, the abomination of desolation cast down, and the veil which is now spread over the people removed. For this should prayer be daily offered, and towards this end should our best efforts be directed. How ample, alas! are these walks of Christian labour—whereever we turn, there is yet very much land to be

possessed. So long as any chambers of imagery remain, so long as Satan is permitted to go to and fro in the earth to deceive the nations, the host of the Lord, though faint, must yet be pursuing—the reaping time will yet come—and blessed be He, the Captain of our salvation, who has said, "Be strong, and of a good courage, I will be with thee: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

Reverting now to the Indians, it would be desirable here to offer some more explicit data as to their locations and boundaries, &c. but this I should rather leave to those whose actual observation shall enable them to speak with a greater degree of accuracy than I could possibly do from mere report.

The general name first given by the Spaniards, and still continued by the Chilians of Araucanos, to all the Indian tribes between the Biobio and Valdivia, westward of the Andes, does not obtain, nor is it recognized by themselves. Although frequently confederate, they are not strictly federal, each tribe being independent of the rest, and distinguished by a particular name. Without pretending to critical exactness, I shall here enumerate some of them, together with their relative situations, guided chiefly by the information received, while at San Carlos, from Captain Sinega.

Williches
Muluches } On the Western side of the Andes.
Picuntos

Pewenches.
Puelches } On the Eastern side of the Andes.
Chuelches

Corbalan's tribe were a part of the Muluche nation, the people of Queule were Picuntos, who inhabit the mountain districts between that place and Tucapel; more inland are the Muluches, and the Williches, who extend to the mountains; the people about Ranco were Williches.

With the exception of the Chuelches, who are reported as distinct in language from the rest, but one common tongue is said to be spoken by all, even by those tribes which are spread over the Pampas on the eastern side of the Cordillera, between whom and their more maritime neighbours there is an occasional intercourse by several passes in this part of the Cordillera, especially by one near the head of the lake of Raneo, which is the most frequented, and regarded as the high road to the very neighbourhood of Buenos Ayes. While at Arique, I saw a party who had recently crossed from the opposite side; they could not utter a word of Spanish, but their appearance and dress was similar to that of the other Indians, to whom they were perfectly intelligible. It was from this cir-

cumstance, taken in connexion with the other advantages of Vutronway, which induced me to regard it as a spot eminently adapted for a missionary establishment. With regard to population, nothing very conclusive can be said; but from the nature of their country, in some parts thickly wooded, the entire absence of large trees, and the very few and scattered habitations which constitute their villages, it is not supposed to exceed 25,000 to 30,000 on the Pacific side of the Cordillera, but this I admit is mere conjecture.

The form of the houses varies in different districts, sometimes they are rectangular, with high pitched roofs, others are nearly of an oval form, which I consider to be the most usual, the former being probably in imitation of those built by the Chilenos. Some few at Vutronway, and all at Queule, were of the oval construction, and had very much the appearance of a vessel keel uppermost, the raised ridge which continues throughout their whole length making the resemblance still more complete, especially as they had no windows, and were thatched through from the ground. In every house at Piligen I observed two spears hung up to the beams across the roof, with their points directed exactly towards the entrance, ready for immediate use; they were about sixteen feet long, and headed with a narrow steel point.

The migratory habits of those tribes which inhabit the eastern side of the Cordillera, partly induced by the necessity of frequently removing their herds from one watered district to another, according to the state of the pasturage, and partly with a design to carry on unobscured their predatory inroads upon their more civilized neighbours, for the sake of pillage, does not obtain on the western side. Both however manufacture their own cloth, a coarse woollen fabric, which is very warm and durable, and are very ingenious in making reins for bridles, stirrup-leathers, and saddle-girths, which are beautifully wrought by closely plaiting very narrow lengths of finely-split hide. In the workmanship of all such articles they vie with each other in skill, and it was amusing to observe the great interest which the twine-twisted and varnished handle of my English riding-whip excited; it was always the first thing that attracted their notice, and the last which they retained for examination. Indigo is in general demand for the dying of their cloth, and is in consequence an excellent article for barter. Other dyes are also employed, and some that are peculiar to the country, which are chiefly required for the bordering of their ponchos, each tribe, like the Scotch clans, having a distinctive colour. This peculiar garment, which is purely Indian, (although

generally adopted by the Spaniards and their descendants, almost from their arrival in this country) is now seldom to be procured of native manufacture, excepting in the districts bordering upon the Indian frontier; and it is a curious fact that a very great proportion of those now worn in Chili are the production of English looms. None of these however are esteemed by the Indians, who invariably adhere to their own sombre colours, which are usually dark blue, dark brown, or grey. The Picuntos are distinguished by a red bordering to their ponchos; the Williches by a party-coloured fringe, yellow, red, blue, white, and green. When walking, the waist-poncho of the men, which is wound round the loins, hangs down to the ankles, and looks so like a petticoat, that it is not easy to divest oneself of the idea that they are women, especially when their long hair is seen floating on their shoulders. They have neither whiskers nor beard; but as a degree of shame would attach to any one who should venture, during any period of his life, to curtail one of his raven locks, this deficiency is in some measure supplied; more than half the face being concealed beneath the lank streamers that hang down on either side. In lieu of the waist-poncho, the Indians bordering on the province of Valdivia, wear a kind of pantaloon, tight from the knee to the ankle, where it fits

almost as closely as a stocking; this I need not add is a most unbecoming habiliment, especially as neither shoes or stockings are ever worn. It is a perfect contrast to the loose flowing poncho, though made of the same material, which is called 'carro,' and is invariably of a dark blue; but it must be acknowledged that it is better adapted for the Valdivian climate in winter, and is far more convenient for riding.

The heads and feet of both men and women are always uncovered; the dress of the latter is both simple and convenient, consisting like that of the men of but two garments, one of which, however, (a sort of loose cape thrown over the shoulders and united on the neck,) is often laid aside. The other, in itself a complete dress, is a loose frock, without sleeves, reaching from the throat to the ankles, the body from the waist upwards, opening like a bib, and being closed together by a wooden pin, in the same manner as the cloak, upon the shoulder.

Their hair is parted behind and plaited into two long tails, which are often ornamented with strings of little brass or gold bells, which make a tinkling noise at every movement of the head. Sometimes the two ends of the hair are connected behind by a string of these bells, as I observed was the case with a chief's wife

of the Muluche tribe, whom I saw at San Carlos. They are also fond of bead-ornaments, which are worn on the wrists and ankles, and sometimes upon the head; but their ear-rings, or rather *ear-plates*, are the most remarkable of all their decorations; they are of thin silver, shaped like the blade of a garden-hoe, and not less than about half the usual size of one, covering the greater part of the face; that part which would correspond with the ring for the handle, being large enough to receive the ear, upon which it is suspended. Infants, when put to sleep, are confined by bandages to a sort of wooden trough, exactly similar to a butcher's tray, with the arms tied closely down like a mummy, much in the same manner as is customary among the Indians of Canada. When the child is awake and the mother not able to attend to it, some of the upper ligatures are unwound, the tray, resting upon its foot, is inclined against the side of the house, and in this posture, in which the child cannot possibly fall or hurt itself, I have seen them play with the thatch or any other trifle with the greatest good humour for a considerable time. The women are employed in cultivating the ground, preparing the food, and in all the menial offices of the family; the men being chiefly occupied in attending on the cattle, felling timber, training their horses, and

preparing their weapons for any warlike expedition. On these, as on all ordinary journies, they have a great advantage in being able to carry their supplies in a small compass. All that they require is a skin bag of parched meal slung across their saddle; which simple fare, when mixed with a little water at the first brook, is sufficient for their necessities for ten or twelve days, and sometimes for a much longer period. The grain commonly used for this purpose is barley, but wheat, oats, and Indian corn, are equally employed—these are first reduced to meal by grinding upon a hand stone, as in Africa; a small quantity is then placed in a large wide-mouthed earthen vessel, which is held slantingly over a brisk fire, and rapidly stirred during the whole time, until it is sufficiently parched or roasted; the earthen vessel is again replenished, and so on, until the whole quantity is prepared. It is an excellent supply for a long journey, and when hot, is a pleasant beverage.

The principal trade with the Indians is in ponchos and cattle; for the latter, mares are generally exchanged, and it is not an unfrequent occurrence that these cattle, when purchased, are permitted to be driven by the Chilian traders through the Indian territory from Valdivia to Concepcion. Between these two provinces, in time of peace,

there is a monthly post, the courier, according to the state of the roads, performing the distance in a period varying from eight to eighteen days.

The present frontier system of the Chilenos seems to be based upon the ephemeral principle of expediency; the peace they cannot ensure by their arms, they maintain by bribes, and in those parts where the Indians are the least suspicious, they employ every artifice; especially by the introduction of cider (the common beverage of Valdivia, and which, if taken to excess, becomes intoxicating) to effect unequal sales, and thus by gradually intermixing with them whenever allowed, to push forward their frontier to an indefinite extent. The testimony of history, from the conquest of Chili to the present hour, is conclusive as to the indomitable spirit and martial bearing of these hardy Indians, who though twice subjugated, and frequently overcome by Spanish troops, have never lost an opportunity to assert their independence, and have always in the main been successful. In vain did Valdivia, and his successors in the government of Concepcion, add fort to fort, and take what they supposed to be military possession of the country, from the Biobio to Chiloe; their tenure was always short, and dearly bought; until, at length, they were deprived of more than two-

thirds of their newly-acquired territory, after having expended in the struggle, as it is asserted by one of their own authors, no less a sum than 1,300,000 dollars. Since the piratical efforts of the inhuman Benivedes, who, from 1819 to 1822, succeeded in rekindling all the latent animosities of the Indians against the Spaniards, to subserve his own vindictive schemes, there has been no open rupture with them; but so little are they trusted, or rather so much are they feared, that, until lately, when a large body of troops was required for the prosecution of the war with Peru, a considerable force was constantly stationed at Los Angeles. To a frontier tribe, under a chief named Colipi, they are however mainly indebted for their present state of tranquillity, a service which is not rendered without a due equivalent. Colipi receives the pay of a major in the Chilian army; and annual presents from the government, constituting a sort of retaining pay, are made to all the inferior chiefs who have entered into this offensive and defensive agreement. This system, as might be supposed, has occasioned so wide a separation between the independent tribes and those which are under Chilian influence, that feuds and animosities, ending in bloodshed, are too frequently the result.

At all the frontier ports, are one or more go-

vernment interpreters, who wear a uniform, and have received the strange appellation of 'Capitanes des Amigos.' They were originally designed as an escort for the missionaries, and at one period were in great disrepute among the Indians, who regarded them as nothing less than accredited spies; but they are now chiefly employed in communicating with the tribes in alliance with the government. The Popish missions, in all these countries, have invariably been connected with the government, and have increased or diminished in proportion to the authority which it maintained over the Indians. During the height of their successes, when they had the temporary possession of the country between Concepcion and Chiloe, there were no less than twenty-five missionary stations, while at the present day there are not more than, I think, eight or nine.

Several Italian friars have recently arrived from Europe for the supply of these; one of them is now at Arique, another at San Jose, not far from Cruces, and it is supposed that a third will eventually be appointed to Tucapel, should the ruined monastery be repaired. Among those long since abandoned, is a dilapidated building near Quinchilca, on the opposite side of the river, and another destroyed by the Indians at Lifen, on the northern border of the lake Raveo.

It was not a little curious in this remote part of the new world, to hear the Indians designated by the very same term which was formerly applied to the Saracens in Spain. The term 'Moro,' or Moor, is not unfrequently used to distinguish the Indians, who are Pagans, from those who have embraced what is here called Christianity; while the name of Spaniard, so reprobated in many parts of Chili, is the only term by which the Chilenos are distinguished from the aborigines in the frontier districts.

The form of government among the Indians is patriarchal, each community acknowledging a chief of the particular district, who is styled Ulmen, the term 'cacique' being a word used only by the Spaniards; all their chieftains are hereditary, and although they differ in power, according to the strength of their respective clans, none are permitted to exercise independent control over the whole tribe, excepting in time of war; but even this temporary dictatorship is always elective.

To the very few particulars already mentioned, respecting their religion, or rather their almost total want of any, I am unable to add more from my own observation, with any degree of correctness, than that they have neither priesthood nor idols, but regard the sun, under the name of 'Anti,'

as the supreme Being, and pay some sort of veneration to the moon, which they call 'Kayan;' but I could not understand that their devotions amounted to anything more than some occasional offerings to propitiate their favour in cases of sickness or, on the approach of war. I shall therefore at once pass on to state more fully the considerations which determined us, at length, to give up the intention of attempting something for the benefit of the Indians on the Chilian frontier.

Not merely from my own observation and the confession of Wykepang, but from the concurrent testimony of all, both Chilenos and Indians, with whom I have conversed on the subject, it appeared evident that, without a thorough acquaintance with their language, it would be hopeless as a stranger, to expect to gain admittance among the Indians; while, on the other hand, with this qualification, there was every reason to believe the reverse. For some time I was unwilling to admit the full force of this statement, but its correctness became daily more evident, and its influence on my mind proportionably stronger: so that, after my visit to Queule, it appeared to be altogether conclusive. Humanly speaking it now seemed to be impracticable to approach the independent Indians by any other means: not merely could no permanent settlement be formed within the limits

of their territory, but no direct instruction could be imparted to them, until that was first acquired. Here then was a serious obstacle,—for although, at the commencement of every foreign mission, the language must first be acquired, before much can be effected for the spiritual benefit of the people; still, through the medium of an interpreter, and the force of example, some progress may notwithstanding be made. It appeared then, as far as I was individually concerned, to become a question of time and ability. My knowledge of Spanish was very imperfect; this must first be completed, and then, through Spanish, the only direct medium, the Indian language must be learned. Judging from the difficulties which I experienced with regard to the Zulu, taken in connexion with my time of life, I could have little expectation of qualifying myself for entering the Indian territory, under, at least, eight or ten years. To those to whom the acquirement of new languages is comparatively easy, this may appear a long period, and I am quite prepared to admit that, to such, and especially to younger men, the difficulty in question would soon be overcome; perhaps in one half the time. With this conviction, it appeared to me as far more advisable, that the work in this country, whenever commenced should be consigned to abler hands,

or at least to those who are much younger than myself, in order that (should life and opportunity be continued, they might follow up with activity and vigour, the important work for which their long period of previous studies had only been preparatory.

Having now sufficiently explained my motives for not myself occupying a sphere, which I feel has a strong and powerful claim upon the prayers and exertions of all true Christians; and preferring rather to labour among those with whom we can reside, while endeavouring to acquire their language; I shall conclude with a few suggestions upon the plan which, notwithstanding the very scanty materials which I have been enabled to collect, I am still inclined to think would perhaps be the most advisable, should any missionary efforts be made in behalf of these interesting people.

As a place of residence for a Missionary on his first arrival, and indeed until he has mastered the Spanish language, the town of Quillota, about twenty-eight miles distant from Valparaiso, appears to be the most eligible; Valparaiso itself being too expensive, and the inducements to speak English too frequent and powerful. Concepcion would certainly have been preferable, on many accounts; but the communications between Tal-

cahuano and Valdivia are very rare, whereas a constant intercourse is carried on with the latter from the port of Valparaiso.

Having acquired the Spanish language, he should at once proceed by sea to Valdivia, in the inland districts of which province he will have ample opportunity for acquiring the Indian language; in this study he will be materially aided by a dictionary, now rare and out of print, compiled by the early Popish Missionaries, but still to be met with among the Franciscan Friars. The only copy which I have seen, was in the possession of M. Angeles, a French gentleman residing at Buenos Ayres; another was said to be in the Franciscan Convent at New Chilian; where I called as we passed, with the hope of purchasing it, but was informed that it could not be disposed of.

From this Convent emanate all the missionaries who are employed on the Chilian frontier; but at present they have no station within the limits of the Indian territory.

By learning Spanish, previously to visiting the province of Valdivia, there would be less time for the Popish priests to speculate upon the ulterior objects of the missionary, and he would be better qualified to select the point most suitable for his first attempt to communicate with the Independent

Indians. As it is not probable that, even when qualified, he would be received without suspicion, it would be highly advisable, in the first instance, to make some few preliminary journeys in company with the Chileno traders, in order to gain an introduction to some of the principal chiefs.

For some time no permanent establishment should be contemplated; to gain their entire confidence will be a work requiring much patience and perseverance, so that, at this particular stage of the mission, single men would be more suitable than those who have families.

Having now stated, as fully as the little data I possess, will warrant, the actual condition of the Indians, the probability there is of an ample sphere of usefulness being opened out among them, if entered upon with prudence, and followed up with perseverance; and what appears to be the most advisable method for carrying it into effect, (as far as human instrumentality can be conducive to such a work,) I would now commit the cause to Him who has said, "Go forth into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," and without whose direction and blessing no work, however it may appear to be in accordance with his will, can prosper.

Had the purport of these pages been directed

to a minute description of some newly-discovered mine of silver or gold, which in intrinsic value bid fair to outrival all that have hitherto been opened, with what avidity and interest would they be read, and how readily would numbers associate to extract their envied ore! And shall the case be widely different because no earthly treasure is to be amassed, but by the still small voice of the gospel, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world, is to be proclaimed to perishing sinners, and the humbling doctrines of the cross are to be preached? But, blessed be God, there are not wanting some who sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the earth; who speak often one to another in the fulness of their hearts, and in the posture of the prophet's servant, are found anxiously awaiting the little cloud that shall refresh the thirsty land. To such I would address myself, and to all in whom the Lord hath put wisdom to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Nor do I anticipate the mere echo of my words, or the cold and listless reply that 'Missionaries are as much needed at home.' It may, alas, be so: but does this exonerate us, as Christians, from compliance, according to our ability, with the express command of our blessed Redeemer, who gave himself a ransom for all, and would have all men to be saved, and to come

to the knowledge of the truth,—" to do unto others as we would that they should do unto us," " to teach all men," and " to preach unto the gentiles that they might be saved."

Who can tell but this is the set time to favour the benighted tribes in whose behalf I am endeavouring to plead; but as no spiritual work is ever rightly begun, and never can be successfully carried on without prayer, let me earnestly entreat of such of my fellow-christians as may have followed me thus far, to offer up prayers and supplications for them also, and especially that it would please the Lord to prepare the hearts of some of his younger servants to offer themselves willingly for this work.

To him then would I leave the whole ordering of all that concerns them, well knowing that the time is yet coming when all kings shall fall down before him, and to him every tongue shall swear, and every knee shall bow. May the spirit of our God quicken in all of us a deep concern for our own souls, and then we shall need no human tongue or angel voice to awaken us to a lively sense of our perishing brother's need: and, while engaged in this our bounden duty, we shall not only acknowledge, but deeply feel, that of ourselves we can do no good thing; " and ascribe all

the power and all the glory, where alone it is due, to Him who enables us both to will and to do of his own good pleasure, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight."

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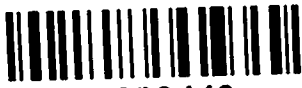
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